Lawrence D. Halmrast
Guardian of the Milk River

LEGISLATIVE LIBRARY
FEB 20 2001
EDMONTON

Provincial Museum of Alberta
Special Publication No. 8

Ellen Gasser

THE PROVINCIAL MUSEUM OF ALBERTA

Alberta
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

101-04320/

Provincial Museum of Alberta
Special Publication No. 8
2001

Lawrence D. Halmrast
Guardian of the Milk River

Ellen Gasser

Maurice F.V. Doll, Editor

Editor: Maurice F.V. Doll
Editorial Assistants: Dr. James Burns & Jane Zaiane
Design and Typesetting: Heidi Baron
Production: Mark Steinhilber

National Library of Canada Cataloguing in Publication Data

Gasser, Ellen, 1958-
Lawrence D. Halmrast

(Provincial Museum of Alberta Special Publication ; No. 8)
Includes bibliographical references.
ISBN 0-7785-1544-3

1. Halmrast, Lawrence D. 2. Milk River Region (Alta.)--Biography. 3. Archaeologists--Alberta--Biography. 4. Paleontologists--Alberta--Biography. 5. Firearms--Collectors and collecting--Alberta. I. Doll, Maurice F. V. II. Provincial Museum of Alberta. III. Title. IV. Series
FC3695.M52Z49 2001 971.23'4 C2001-910080-9
F1079.M54G37 2001

Cover: Milk River Country, n.d. Lawrence Halmrast Collection,
Provincial Museum of Alberta, PN92.1.5031

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Foreword v
Acknowledgments vi

INTRODUCTION 1

PART 1: LAWRENCE HALMRAST - A REMARKABLE MAN 2

TIME, PLACE AND PERSONALITY - A UNIQUE COMBINATION 2
The Land Lawrence Loved 2
The Man I Knew

AN ORDINARY LIFE - EXTRAORDINARY ACCOMPLISHMENTS 4
Growing Up on the Farm 4
Calgary, Motorcycles and Marriage 6
Guns, Hunting, Rock Work and Explorations 8
Family and Friends 16
Triumph, Tragedy and Rebirth 18
A New Lease on Life 20
Recognition and Honours 25
Final Days 27

PART 2: LAWRENCE HALMRAST'S REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENTS 29

ARCHAEOLOGIST AT HEART 29
Learning About Archaeology 29
Archaeological Findings (1950s and 1960s) 30
Archaeological Guides 31
Work With the Archaeological Society of Alberta 31
Syllabics 33
Ogam 34
Teacher and Conservationist 35

AMATEUR PALAEONTOLOGIST PAR EXCELLENCE 37
Learning About Palaeontology 38
Collecting and Displaying Fossils 38
Professional Ties and Memorable Discoveries 40

PREMIER GUN COLLECTOR 43
Development of the Collection 43
Content of the Civil War Gun Collection 47
Other Guns Collected 51

PART 3: LAWRENCE HALMRAST'S LEGACY 52

APPENDIX 1: Clubs And Associations Of Which Lawrence was a Member 54

APPENDIX 2: List Of Publications To Which Lawrence Contributed 54

APPENDIX 3: Awards Lawrence Received 55

APPENDIX 4: List of Guns, Ammunition and Accoutrements 56

PART 4: REFERENCES: 63

A. Unpublished Sources 63

B. Published Sources 65

LIST OF FIGURES

1	Map of Southern Alberta showing Milk River country and Writing-on-Stone Provincial Park.	2
2	Lawrence D. Halmrast on his Harley Davidson motorcycle, ca.1947.	7
3	Alva Bair and Lawrence Halmrast.	9
4	John Kolesar, Lawrence Halmrast and Alva Bair at the cairn they built at Camp Impeesa.	12
5	Lawrence's distinctive fireplace built from rock samples and stone hammers he collected.	14
6	Petroglyphs at Writing-on-Stone Provincial Park.	18
7	Petroglyphs at Writing-on-Stone Provincial Park.	21
8	Lawrence receiving his Honourary Doctorate of Laws at the University of Lethbridge.	26
9	Lawrence's den displaying his varied collections to his many visitors over the years.	27
10	Lawrence Halmrast tutoring actor Leslie Neilson at Writing-on-Stone Provincial Park.	36
11	A display frame in Lawrence's den containing mostly Colt percussion and cartridge revolvers.	43
12	Lawrence's collection of Civil War era percussion revolvers and three early cartridge revolvers.	43
13	Several of Lawrence's trophies with American Civil War carbines displayed in his den.	44
14	Part of Lawrence's firearm collection dominated by his interest in American Civil War carbines.	45
15	Civil War firearms including Spencer, Sharps, Peabody and Ball carbines.	46
16	Civil War carbines displayed in Lawrence's den. Some of Lawrence's fossil collection can be seen at the base of the photo.	47
17	Variations on a theme. Lawrence attempted to collect all the models of each make of carbine adopted for use by the Union Cavalry during the American Civil War.	48
18	Part of Lawrence's amazing collection of Colt revolving rifles, carbines and shotguns below which is a small part of his prepared fossil collection.	49
19	Eight more Colt revolving firearms displayed in Lawrence's den with brass framed Winchesters and a Henry lever-action repeating rifle.	50
20	Lawrence Devern Halmrast, Honourary Doctorate of Laws, University of Lethbridge, October 19, 1991.	53

FOREWORD

I met Lawrence Halmrast in the fall of 1991 under unfortunate circumstances. Knowing he was terminally ill, the fate of his collection was a growing urgency to him and his family. During the course of several meetings Lawrence and I shared our mutual love of collections and history, looked into the unpleasant future in front of him and discussed the question of his collection.

The lifetime of passion and love that was embodied in the firearms, photographs, fossils, rocks and archaeological material he had collected had given the collection a life of its own that would not be extinguished by Lawrence's passing. The unselfish sharing of the collection and the effect it had upon others over his life led Lawrence, I feel, to the realization he was more of a keeper than an owner of the collection. It belonged in a way to everyone. Lawrence realized it was time to pass the collection onto another keeper who would continue to nurture the collection's contribution to history and the enjoyment of history by anyone who was interested.

The strength of Lawrence's collection was its focus – firearms from the American Civil War period, and the cultural and natural history of the Milk River region. Much of the collection was developed before others became interested in the Milk River country. As with all pioneers, Lawrence recognized the importance of what was around him and set out to do something about it.

Lawrence contributed greatly to the Milk River country becoming widely known and appreciated for what it was and is, a unique chapter and landscape in the history of our province. With Lawrence's passing an enormous wealth of knowledge, gained first hand on countless excursions exploring the landscape he loved, was lost. Sadly, the collection he left behind can only begin to approximate the totality of what he embodied.

I knew Lawrence only for a brief span of time but the qualities that endeared him to so many were quickly recognizable. Generous, unassuming, knowledgeable, unselfish with his time and talent, a genuine desire to enrich the lives of others and a quiet passion for living explained why I met so many strangers afterwards who spoke so highly of the man.

Lawrence left all of us a legacy – his collection – and it was a great honour for the Provincial Museum of Alberta to be chosen by Lawrence as the next keeper of the Halmrast Collection. To those that knew him he left more – the pleasure of knowing him.

Dr. Philip H.R. Stepney
Director, Provincial Museum of Alberta

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

In 1979, I obtained employment as a seasonal interpreter at Writing-on-Stone Provincial Park, Alberta. Within minutes of my arrival the place had captured my heart and I returned to work there many times in succeeding years as well as to conduct research on the human and natural history of the area. Throughout my first years at the park I kept hearing the name, Lawrence Halmrast. I had already met Alva Bair, a longtime knowledgeable resident of the area, but Lawrence eluded me. I longed to meet him, having heard about his massive civil war gun collection and tremendous knowledge of the Milk River area. Finally, in 1983, I had an opportunity to visit him at his home near Warner. It was a meeting that started a friendship that developed into a bond almost as close as that between father and daughter.

Lawrence and I shared a deep interest in the history of southern Alberta and, over the years, he taught me many things about archaeology and palaeontology, and the history of the pioneers and North West Mounted Police in the Milk River area. Lawrence took me to see the many archaeological and palaeontological sites he and Alva Bair had discovered and the historic sites they knew of. He gave me copies he had made of historic photographs, lent me local history books and research papers, and seemed always to have the answers to my numerous questions. When he married Marjorie Henrie in 1985, we became, along with my husband - Dave Elphinstone, a foursome on our visits and rambles. We were like a small family. Lawrence and Marjorie treated us like their own children but also like good friends. He called us once a month to see how we were if we had not called, and we stayed there at least one night on any trip to Writing-on-Stone. We were invited to every major event in Lawrence's life through those years, culminating in the presentation of his honourary doctorate by the University of Lethbridge. The significance of those invitations was never lost on me; I was very honoured to be considered part of his family.

No honour could have been greater than the one Lawrence and Marjorie gave me when they recommended me as the person to write this Provincial Museum of Alberta publication about Lawrence's life and contributions to southern Alberta. Writing it has been a labour of love and is the last gift that I can give to my dear friend, who passed away on February 7, 1992. The task has taken me on a journey of grief and discovery, and it has kept Lawrence alive just a little bit longer for me. In the end, hopefully this paper will do the same for Lawrence's many friends and family members, and bring him to life for those who were not fortunate enough to meet him. To Lawrence I owe my deepest thanks for his confidence in me and for the years he spent sharing his knowledge with me. I hope, my friend, I have done justice to your life.

There was little time after his illness was diagnosed to obtain information from Lawrence. To Marjorie Halmrast goes the credit for setting up the interviews with Lawrence and his life-long friend, Alva Bair. To Mary Bochenko from the Travel Alberta Centre in Milk River I owe a special debt. Out of interest, she had come to listen to the two men's stories, but she quickly became the interviewer in my place when I couldn't be there. She, too, carefully recorded the sites of their many discoveries along the Milk River. Thanks are also extended to Bob Ward and Bill Secertan for filling Mary's role on the last two tapes. A very special thanks to Alva Bair, for the many hours he spent with Lawrence, reliving their experiences, bringing joy to Lawrence's last days and a wealth of precious information to the tapes. This task could not have been accomplished without him.

Lawrence's children and their spouses, Carol and Jim, June, Dale and Shauna, and Gail and Bill showed me Lawrence, the father. His sister and brother-in-law, Trelma and Lowell, told me of Lawrence the boy and young man. They were all a support as well. Thanks also to Lawrence's friends for sharing their remembrances.

Lastly my thanks to Elisa Woodard, for reviewing the initial manuscript and providing valuable feedback that helped me consolidate and focus the work; to Bob Ward, Joyce Elphinstone, Debbie Marr, Anne Berezowski, Dr. Cecile DePass, and Simone Marler, for reading and commenting on various stages of the manuscript; to Dr. Phil Stepney, Director of the Provincial Museum of Alberta, for trusting me to do a good job without really knowing me, providing editorial assistance, being infinitely patient and understanding when the manuscript took a backseat to family crisis and University courses, and for helping to bring Lawrence's last wishes to fruition; to Marlyn Duncan, Dr. Stepney's secretary, for the hours spent transcribing the interview tapes and working on the final manuscript; and to my husband, Dave Elphinstone, for suffering through the hours and days when I was totally absorbed in the project, and the two and one-half years of talking about it amid our hectic lives, before the project was finally complete. Thanks to all of you for believing in me and supporting me. It is very satisfying to finally cross that line from being a person writing a book, to becoming a person whom has written one.

Ellen Gasser -
August 31, 1994

INTRODUCTION

Lawrence Halmrast was an exceptional man. Born and raised a farmer in southern Alberta, Lawrence's love and passion for the Milk River country became the central focus of his life. He wanted to explore and learn about every part of it until he came to know and feel every intimate detail of its human and natural history. He dedicated his life to this pursuit and eventually became one of the most knowledgeable people about the Milk River. But Lawrence did not stop there. He wanted to protect the Milk River, to preserve and share its wonders and history with all that cared to listen.

Like a preacher spreading the gospel, Lawrence worked to pass on his knowledge of the Milk River and its treasures and to instill a conservation ethic among young and old alike by preparing displays, presenting slide shows, giving tours of his home museum and by taking people out to see the country itself. He reached thousands of people over the years without the aid of a formal classroom education. On his own, with his lifelong friend Alva Bair and with groups such as the Archaeological Society of Alberta, Lawrence worked diligently to preserve artifacts and fossils, to record palaeontological, prehistoric and historic sites through mapping and photography, to record local settler histories and to conserve the land and its wildlife resources. Both Lawrence and Alva sought to draw the attention of professionals and government officials to the rich natural and cultural resources of the area and to enlist their help in long term preservation. From his early twenties to his last days in his sixties, Lawrence Halmrast worked for the good of the country he loved. He was a true "Guardian of the Milk River", a champion of one unique and outstanding area of Alberta.

Throughout Lawrence's life, several features characterized the greatness of this soft-spoken, southern Alberta farmer: his dedication and all-consuming drive to learn everything about a subject; his quiet, non-judgmental attitude; his humble nature; and his desire and ability to share everything he had – his time, knowledge and resources – with anyone who asked.

In the end, Lawrence Halmrast left a lasting and permanent legacy for all Albertans. His scientific discoveries, the various historic monuments he created, the thousands of people he taught about the Milk River and the valuable donation he made of his many collections have all contributed to this legacy. Lawrence's Civil War gun collection, his archaeological finds and his extensive photographic collection, which includes perhaps the most complete record ever made of the petroglyphs along the Milk River, are now housed in the Provincial Museum of Alberta. His palaeontological finds rest with the Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology. Through the interviews conducted for this publication, specific details of the important natural and historic sites Lawrence and Alva discovered have been recorded and preserved by the Provincial Museum. It was Lawrence's wish that the things he found in Alberta be left for all Albertans to see and to learn from and that wish is being realized.

This publication is both a record of Lawrence's extraordinary life and a chronicle of his contributions to southern Alberta. It is divided into two sections. Part 1 is a biographical account of Lawrence's life – exploring who he was and how he accomplished so much in his 67 years. Part 2 is a more detailed historical record of Lawrence's contributions in specific areas – archaeology, palaeontology and gun collection – including the development and content of his various collections.

It is my hope that those of you who knew Lawrence and read this work will be able to keep his memory alive and perhaps discover some new insights into the man and his accomplishments. For those of you who never met Lawrence, I hope that you will come to know him as a friend as I and so many others did – who he was, where he came from and why he felt such a deep and passionate love for the Milk River area. To all readers, I seek to bring an understanding of the valuable contributions Lawrence Halmrast made to our knowledge of the Milk River and to its preservation. Ultimately, I hope that you, too, will become a Guardian of the Milk River and continue the legacy Lawrence began.

Lawrence Halmrast was one of those rare, truly good people, who asked nothing, but gave everything. He was a man who made a difference; an Albertan to remember.

Part 1

LAWRENCE HALMRAST - A REMARKABLE MAN

TIME, PLACE AND PERSONALITY – A UNIQUE COMBINATION

It perhaps can be said of all great people that, in another place and another time, the things they accomplished may not have been possible. Lawrence Halmrast felt this way about his own life, often remarking that if he had been born twenty years later, he could not have accomplished so much, nor have made the many discoveries he did. Equally true, however, a different person may not have been so driven to do these things and a different land may not have held so many discoveries. A chronicle of Lawrence's life and accomplishments would not make sense without an understanding and appreciation of the uniqueness of the land and the times in which he lived, nor of the extraordinary character Lawrence was.

THE LAND LAWRENCE LOVED

Lawrence Halmrast was fortunate to have been born and raised in Milk River country, an exceptional landscape that has a way of capturing peoples' hearts and holding them forever. It is no surprise that Lawrence fell in love with this land and that he never wanted to leave it.

From his earliest days, Lawrence experienced the magical view of the Sweetgrass Hills rising high above the prairie, some 30 km southeast of his home. The hills are like a beacon, which have drawn travellers to the Milk River valley for thousands of years. They drew Lawrence as well, for at the base of these bold interruptions of the prairie lies a valley like no other in Canada.

This one small part of Canada, called the Milk River country, stretches from the edge of the Rocky Mountains almost to the Saskatchewan border and contains so many natural and cultural treasures that a person could spend a lifetime discovering them. The first sight of the land, which captivates the heart, is but a superficial hook. For those who tarry longer and delve deeper, a life-long love affair with the Milk River cannot help but develop.

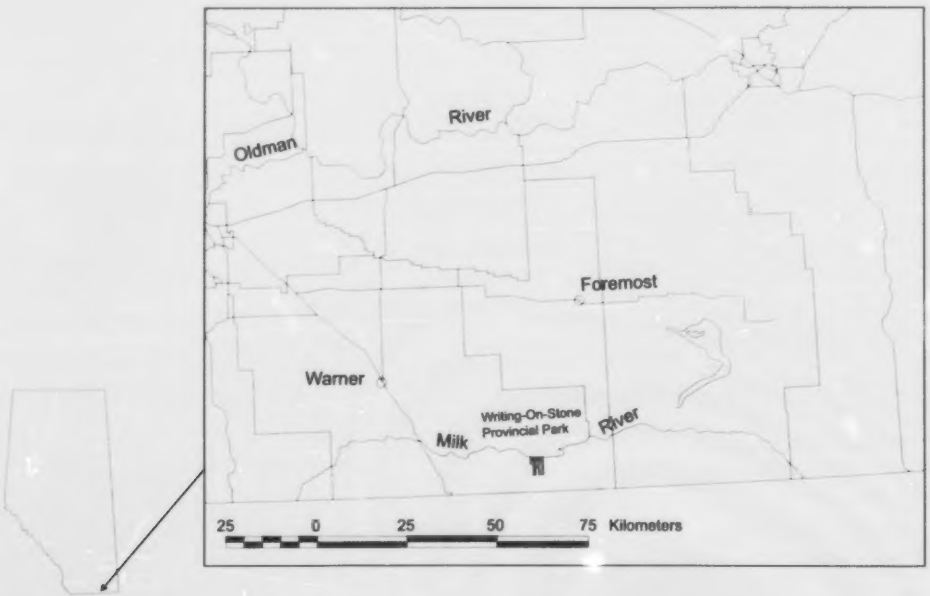

Figure 1 Map of Southern Alberta showing Milk River country and Writing-on-Stone Provincial Park.

Sheer sandstone cliffs rising over 30 m mark the valley and the myriad coulees, which empty into it. Thousands of windblown sandstone hoodoos lend a magical quality to the landscape encountered both upstream and within Writing-on-Stone Provincial Park. Farther downstream the valley becomes a deeply incised canyon of steep-walled badlands and huge piping channels where a human feels dwarfed by the depth and complexity of the landscape. Both east and west of the sandstone outcroppings, eroded areas contain treasures of dinosaur bones, crocodile scutes, turtle shell, marine reptiles, ammonites, bacculites and mollusks. It is a palaeontological feast.

Milk River country is a naturalist's paradise as well. Along the cliffs and atop the hoodoos stand the huge nests of the Ferruginous Hawk and Golden Eagle. Prairie Falcons, American Kestrels and Great Horned Owls nest in the myriad holes of the sheer rock faces and Cliff Swallows fill the underhangs with their gourd-like nests of mud. Even Turkey Vultures have been found nesting along the coulees in recent years.

The prairie above the valley walls still support vast stretches of natural grasslands, complete with Prickly Pear and Pincushion Cactus and other plants of the semi-arid landscape. Amid the gentle undulations of the prairie, herds of Pronghorn hide easily from human eyes. Badgers, Prairie Rattlesnakes, Burrowing Owls, Sharp-tailed Grouse, Sage Grouse, Long-billed Curlews, Upland Plovers and a host of other grassland animals, both rare and common, can be found with a minimum of searching. Wherever there is water, be it a lake, slough or roadside ditch, the habitat is filled with nesting waterfowl and marsh birds.

The bottom of the coulees and Milk River valley form a ribbon-like oasis in contrast to the surrounding grasslands. Here huge Plains Cottonwoods grow, surrounded by thickets of thorny Buffalo-Berry, Saskatoon, Chokecherry and Wild Rose. More bird species nest and feed within the trees and shrubs than do on the surrounding prairie, including such birder's delights as the Common Nighthawk, Rufous-sided Towhee, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher and Yellow-breasted Chat. The moist microclimate in the valley and coulees creates a flood of colour each spring with a host of wildflowers, including such unusual plants as the Yellow Umbrella Plant, Colorado Rubber Plant, Scarlet Globe Mallow, Butte Primrose and the Night-blooming Evening Star. The Milk River and Lost River canyons of southern Alberta provide the only two known locations where Yucca grows in Canada and other plants and animals rare to Canada are known only from this drainage as well.

For thousands of years the abundant wildlife and strange, mystic rock formations brought aboriginal peoples to the Milk River valley. Buffalo jumps and hearth sites are visible along the cutbanks, marking the great hunts of the past. The coulee edges and grasslands are littered with tipi rings and stone effigies. Beneath the surface lie countless stone points, scrapers, hammerheads and other artifacts. Milk River Country is rich in archaeological resources, the most significant being the hundreds of petroglyphs and pictographs, which grace the sandstone cliffs for almost 25 kilometres. This area contains the greatest concentration of native writings on the Great Plains of North America.

Yet even this is not all the Milk River has to offer. As the only Canadian river that drains south into the Gulf of Mexico, the country has many historic links to the south. These lands were first claimed by the Spanish, then the French and later the Americans. In reality it was the Blackfoot Confederacy that occupied the land almost exclusively from approximately 1700 A.D. to the mid-1800s. It was not until 1846, when the 49th Parallel was established as the International Boundary Line between Canada and the United States, that the Milk River country became Canadian and the Sweetgrass Hills, less than 10 km south, became American. Even then, the land as far north as present day Lethbridge was dominated by American whiskey traders until the Northwest Mounted Police marched west in 1874 and extended Canadian government control over the region.

The history of the Mounted Police from their earliest days is part of the history of Milk River country. Remnants of the series of border posts they established to patrol the International Boundary can still be found along the Milk River valley, including the most important boundary post in Alberta, namely Writing-on-Stone. Here the names of many who served in the Northwest Mounted Police

remain carved deeply in the sandstone cliffs at Signature Rock.

The ranchers and settlers who soon filled up the land came from both British and American roots, as well as from other countries in Europe. At first the nearest towns were south of the Boundary Line and no one prevented "cross-border shopping" or use of medical services. Survival was of utmost importance and international friendships soon became family ties as people married and moved to one side of the "Line" or the other, carrying their customs and colloquial expressions with them.

In 1905, one of the most important water agreements between Canada and the United States was signed after a long battle over who owned the rights to the water in the Milk River. The long, low, waterless "Spite Ditch" can still be seen snaking its way overland beside the highway that leads into the town of Milk River; evidence of this battle and lasting proof that Canadians could take the water if they wanted to.

AN ORDINARY LIFE - EXTRAORDINARY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Lawrence Devern Halmrast was a first generation Canadian. His father, Elmer R. Halmrast, was born in Wisconsin in 1899 and came to Warner, Alberta in the spring of 1917. Lawrence's grandfather, Louis and great uncle, Carl had arrived in Warner earlier, in 1910 and 1911, respectively, where they operated a blacksmith shop. Elmer joined them , finding work in the local livery stable and feed mill, working as a drayman and a hired hand on local farms.

Lawrence's mother, Beatrice Velva Lee, was born in Utah in 1907 and immigrated to Stirling, Alberta, with her family in 1910. The Lees eventually settled on a homestead in the Wrentham area in 1911. When Bea was 15 or 16, she went to visit one of her sisters, who lived on a farm five miles east of Warner. There she met and fell in love with Elmer Halmrast, who was working in the area.

Bea and Elmer were married on January 16, 1924 and settled in Raymond, Alberta, where Elmer worked in the sugar factory. Lawrence was born there on May 20, 1925 in the little tent that was their home. He was named after one of his father's brothers, who had died the previous year while serving in the Navy.

Shortly after Lawrence was born, Elmer moved his small family to Utah where he found work in a coal mine near Salt Lake City. Lawrence's only sibling, his sister Trelma, was born there on June 23, 1927. About that time, Elmer suffered a bad fall in the mine and decided to return to Alberta and try farming. They moved back in August, renting some farm land 15 miles east of Warner. Eventually, they bought a section of land located ten miles east and two miles south of Warner and began farming in 1929.

At first the family lived in a house on rented land two miles north of the new farm. Elmer soon bought an existing farmhouse, renovated it and moved it onto the land they had purchased. The new house had two bedrooms upstairs, a bedroom, kitchen and living room on the main floor and an open front porch, that faced southeast towards the beautiful Sweetgrass Hills. It was a breathtaking view and one that Lawrence would spend the rest of his life enjoying.

Growing Up on the Farm

Lawrence loved farm life and roaming the prairie. He often helped his dad pick rocks from the fields and it was here that he first developed his interest in archaeology and palaeontology. He was always hunting for arrowheads or hammerstones or fossils. "I'd pick up a rock and find a fossil or something in it. My dad always said I took more rocks home than I threw on the rock pile. To my dad, a fossil was just another piece of rock." To Lawrence, the fossils and artifacts were fascinating and as his interest grew, his bedroom became his first mini-museum.

From the start, Lawrence was very talented with his hands. He loved anything mechanical and liked to keep busy building miniature saddles and motorcycles from scrap leather and other material. Lawrence and his sister, Trelma, were very close and spent lots of time playing together. Winter fun included cross-country skiing and skating on the pond at the Lillie's farm nearly every evening. In summer, Lawrence and Trelma did a lot of bike

riding or spent time on the back of their Welsh pony. On days when the pony was in a bad mood, they spent time on the ground as well.

As with many farm children, snaring gophers for the bounty paid on them was another favourite pastime. Their dad paid them a penny for each tail they brought home. Lawrence also had a small trapline to catch badgers, weasels and skunks, that were all considered agricultural pests. His father encouraged him in this and skinned the animals for him.

Like all farm children, Lawrence and Trelma had chores to do as well, helping with the chickens, sheep and pigs or the farm and bringing the cow in from the pasture for milking. They often tied a small wagon to the cow's tail and let her pull them home.

Almost every Saturday the whole family made the ten-mile drive into Warner where the highlight was to take in a show at the Empress Theatre. Sometimes, when the snow on the prairie roads made them impassable for vehicles, they would use a neighbour's sleigh. There were, however, many Saturdays when they couldn't make the ten miles and had to content themselves with the radio for entertainment. Church brought them into town on Sundays as well. Bea had been raised a Mormon and both Lawrence and Trelma attended the Mormon Church throughout their childhood. They attended Sunday school in the basement of the Elks Hall while their parents went to the Sunday service.

School also took up much of the children's time. Lawrence started school in 1932 and attended the Lillie View School. He was the only child in Grade 1 at the time. The next year when Trelma started, a number of other children began Grade 1 as well. The school-teacher failed Lawrence so that she would not have to teach him separately. Although Lawrence disliked school from the beginning and spent a lot of time on his own, Trelma remembers him helping to teach her and the other Grade 1 students that year, because he had done all the work before. Going through school in the same grade drew Lawrence and his sister even closer. The drawback was having to buy two of everything and not being able to hand down textbooks. Every year their parents would sell the last year's books to help pay for the new year's supplies.

Lillie View was a typical one-room schoolhouse; blackboards along two walls and large maps above the windows that rolled up when not in use. There was a coal stove for heat and in the winter students gathered around it to thaw out their sandwiches and melt snow for drinking water. During the spring, water from a nearby slough was used for drinking purposes, but not before the "wrigglers" were strained out of it. In summer, one of the Martin children carried a pail of water to school each day for everyone to use, as their farm had the only good water well for miles around. Everyone shared the common dipper that hung on the side of the galvanized pail. The two children walked to school, that was located only a quarter mile west of the Halmrast farm. In winter Lawrence and his sister often waited for Jim and Margaret Lillie to walk ahead of them, breaking the snowy trail and sheltering them from the cold prairie wind.

There were up to 20 students in the school when Lawrence attended it and the students had to help the teacher with certain chores each day. Everyone had to dig coal from the snow-covered bin behind the school and at the end of the day Lawrence and the other boys had the job of removing the ashes from the stove. Aside from the regular lessons, the children played games at lunchtime, swung on the wooden and rope swings and looked forward all year to the annual Christmas program and the end of term school picnic.

In 1939, when Lawrence and Trelma were in Grade 6, the Lillie View School closed and they were transferred to the two-room Watt School. It was necessary to ride the bus to the new school and now Lawrence and Trelma, being the first on in the morning, had to travel a circuitous route of nearly 30 miles before reaching their final destination, only three miles east of their house! When the school bus made its last stop at their house at the end of the day, Lawrence's mother never knew if there would be more than two kids getting off, but she never seemed to mind how many friends came to spend the night.

In Grade 9 Lawrence became very bored with schoolwork. In the spring of that year (1942) he quit and, as his sister Trelma recalls, "I don't think he ever regretted the decision." Lawrence was 17 years old. Although the Second World War was

waging, Lawrence was not called to duty because his dad needed him on the farm. Growing grain to feed the nation and the troops was considered an essential part of the war effort.

Calgary, Motorcycles and Marriage

Throughout his teens, Lawrence was very interested in horses and spent time riding on the farm and dressing the part of a cowboy. He taught himself to play guitar when he was ten or eleven years old and could play all the popular western songs. By the age of 17 Lawrence had become interested in dancing and girls and occasionally played guitar at some of the local dances. He needed long distance transportation to get to these places though and a horse would not do so he bought a motorcycle, an Aerial 250 four cylinder. It was the beginning of his interest in bikes, one he shared with Trelma's boyfriend, Lowell McNeely. Often they would travel as a foursome, Trelma and Lowell on one bike and Lawrence and his first girlfriend on another.

In 1945, Lawrence noticed an advertisement in a magazine for an Army issue Harley Davidson for $200.00. He showed it to Lowell and both of them ordered one. The bikes came in army colours, with no skirts or fenders, but they were brand new, having never made it to war. Lawrence made buddy seats to replace the single person bucket seats on the two bikes, then fixed his up with skirts and fenders. He sold the Aerial, preferring instead to ride the Harley Davidson.

Trelma eventually married Lowell on January 2, 1946 and moved to Calgary. With the harvest over and nothing to look forward to but another quiet winter on the farm, Lawrence loaded his belongings on his motorcycle and headed for Calgary to look for work and to live with Trelma and Lowell. In 1946, Calgary's population was just over 97,000, but it was still a big city compared to Lethbridge or Warner. Lawrence soon found a job working in a furniture factory on the west end of Eighth Avenue, manufacturing wooden frames for couches and chairs. He used his motorcycle to do occasional work for Gil's Delivery as well and to get him from place to place.

There were two motorcycle shops in Calgary at that time, a Harley Davidson Dealer and an Indian Dealer. Trelma and Lowell lived close to the Indian shop and Lowell was already familiar with the owner, Walt Healy. Walt started the Ace Hy Motorcycle Club that year, using a room in his own home as the clubhouse. Lawrence and Lowell both joined the club, which had about 50 members.

In the spring of 1947, Lawrence left his job at the furniture factory and returned to Warner to farm with his dad. He stayed until the crop was harvested, then rode back to Calgary to find an apartment and a new job. Walt Healy was looking for help at the time and hired Lawrence as a motorcycle mechanic because of his experience working around farm equipment and his basic knowledge of machinery. Wally Humphrey, a member of the Ace Hy Club who had been a machinist in the war, showed Lawrence how to use a metal lathe to make parts, a skill Lawrence used the rest of his life on the farm. Whatever else he needed to know, Lawrence learned from Walt or other staff, or by trial and error. Walt described Lawrence as a "quiet, easy-going young man, very likeable and very handy with his hands." He was also "conscientious and a fast learner." These were traits Lawrence was known for throughout his life.

Lawrence met many "characters" during his years at the motorcycle store. One of his co-workers was a Stampede Wrestler who was quite a rowdy fellow. Every Friday night the wrestler would ask Lawrence if he could borrow $20.00. That was a considerable amount of money in those days but Lawrence, in his generous and trusting way, always lent it to him. Every Monday morning, without fail, the wrestler would pay him back.

Lawrence and Walt struck up quite a friendship and Walt helped kindle Lawrence's interest in a number of things which would later become lifelong passions. Lawrence's father had always liked fishing but he was never a hunter. Walt liked both and he took Lawrence on one of his first deer hunting trips along Fish Creek, just west of Bragg Creek. They also spent time target shooting together at a nearby rifle range. Walt had been an armourer for the 13th Military District in the war and showed Lawrence how to build and repair firearms as well. Lawrence soon developed an

interest in historic guns and Walt gave him a number of old rifles and handguns to start a collection. Lawrence also manufactured in Walt's shop, a miniature replica of an historic cannon, that he kept the rest of his life.

Walt and Lawrence both liked coffee and every day they frequented a little restaurant across the street from the store. They would sit and watch for customers coming to Walt's shop. It was not long after he started working for Walt Healy that Lawrence met a pretty, dark-haired waitress there, named Jessie and asked her out.

Jessie McCulloch was born in Coleman, Alberta, on April 29, 1924 and was raised in the Crowsnest Pass. In August 1943 she enlisted in the Canadian Women's Army Corps (C.W.A.C.). After basic training she was stationed in Calgary and had remained there after the war. Like Lawrence, Jessie was a quiet, easy-going, likeable person and the two soon fell in love. After a winter romance, they were married on April 5, 1948.

Jessie joined Lawrence in his activities with the Ace Hy Motorcycle Club, riding behind him on his bike. While only the men attended the meetings, wives and girlfriends joined them in all the other activities. The motorcycle club was primarily a social club; members would meet for wiener roasts, banquets and dances, or go on Gypsy Tours to places like Yellowstone National Park or Great Falls, Montana. The Club also held competitions, endurance races or mud runs at Weaselhead; hill climbs in Calgary, Turner Valley, Cochrane or Great Falls; and flat track racing in Lethbridge. Many members of the Ace Hy club made lasting friendships; some of the people Lawrence knew best were Wally Humphrey, Roy Bush, Barry McSorley, Jeff White and Walt Gates.

Lawrence went on a tour with the Ace Hy Club to Yellowstone in 1947 and participated in almost every activity the Club hosted, even donating the L.D. Halmrast trophy for the Hill Climbing events. He particularly liked the mud runs, endurance races and hill climbs. In his den Lawrence had a series of three dramatic pictures of himself in a hill climb race during a Gypsy Tour and Field Day held at a coulee near the Halmrast farm in Warner. He won first place in that hill climb. He tried a few stunts with his bike as well and once did a flaming boardwall crash in Lethbridge, where the rider takes his bike through a wall of flame. In 1949 the Club presented him with their activity award in recognition of his extensive involvement and for designing the club logo.

Lawrence especially liked to buy motorcycles and modify them into touring bikes. He did this with six or seven different bikes during his motorcycle years. If someone came along and offered him a good price for one, he would sell it and buy another. His favourite bike was a 45 Indian, that he bought from Walt Healy and used for hill climbing. It was one of the first Indians sold after the war.

Occasionally, Lawrence would also strip down one of his bikes for racing. The practice of the day was to remove the mufflers and headlight, bolt on the plates carrying the racing numbers and change the tires. For several years Lawrence used his bike for flat track racing during the annual competitions held in Lethbridge by the Ace Hy Club, racing under an American Motorcycle Association racing number. In 1948 or 1949, while racing on the dirt oval, Lawrence got caught in a bunch of bikes as they were going around a corner. Although he was not injured badly, he broke some bones in his feet and fingers. "It was nobody's fault," Lawrence recalled. "Just one of the things that happen." Lawrence also broke his jaw once and, on another occasion while riding the oval track alone, he lost control of his bike. He hit his head, suffered serious abrasions on his face and developed a case of amnesia by the second day. He could not even

Figure 2 Lawrence D. Halmrast on his Harley Davidson motorcycle, ca.1947.

remember being at the track, much less the accident. After that, he decided the sport was not for him.

Lawrence and Jessie used his motorcycle for transportation around Calgary and when Lawrence returned to the farm in the spring of 1948, he took his new wife with him on his bike. They lived in a tiny one-room bunkhouse in the farmyard, a building about 10 feet by 12 feet. That fall they returned to Calgary and Lawrence went back to work at Healy's shop. Walt didn't seem to mind his wandering mechanic who came to work late in the fall and left early in the spring, so Lawrence was able to keep the best of both worlds, farming and motorcycles.

When they returned to the farm in the spring of 1949, Lawrence decided to build a proper house immediately north of his parents' home. Lowell and Trelma had already moved back to southern Alberta and had started an excavating business, so Lowell used his new backhoe to dig the basement, septic tank and root cellar. Then Lawrence, his dad and Lowell began building the house, partially finishing it by fall when Lawrence and Jessie returned to Calgary. Trelma and Lowell moved into it then and, with the help of Lawrence's father, finished wiring it over the winter.

In the fall of 1949, Lawrence and his dad were unable to harvest their crop because of bad weather. Lawrence would travel back and forth between Calgary and Warner whenever a chinook occurred, to help with the harvest. It wasn't until Christmas before they were finally finished. Shortly after Lawrence returned to Calgary from his last trip, Jessie gave birth to their first child, Carol, on January 13, 1950.

Lawrence had barely worked at the motorcycle shop a month after the last harvesting trip when his father phoned and said, "If you want to take over the farm, come back and stay." So in the spring of 1950 Lawrence and Jessie returned to the farm for good, travelling through the snow on Lawrence's motorcycle, with Jessie and the baby in a sidecar. They moved into the new house which had only a living room, bedroom, kitchen and porch.

Lawrence continued his association with the Ace Hy Motorcycle Club and the group often spent the night at the farm during one of their Gypsy Tours to Great Falls or places south. Lawrence and Jessie joined them on a Gypsy Tour in 1950 and went to Calgary for a Turkey Shoot in 1951; Lawrence received a ten-year Safety Award from the Club during this time.

With the arrival of their second child, June, in 1951, Lawrence and Jessie switched from the motorcycle to a red, 1950 Mercury pickup. Lawrence stopped competing in meets about this time, realizing that to win he would have to be crazier and take more chances than anyone else. He went on a Gypsy Tour with the club in 1953, but this was one of the last ones he participated in. Lawrence and Jessie always maintained the friendships they made with the Ace Hy Club members, however, and members of the group continued to visit them through all their years on the farm, even after the club folded in the early 1960s. Likewise, on most trips to Calgary, Lawrence would stop by Walt Healy's shop to have a coffee. Those years were an important foundation for his later life and Lawrence never forgot them.

Guns, Hunting, Rockwork and Explorations

With his interest in motorcycles waning, Lawrence became increasingly interested in collecting guns. By the time they moved into the new farmhouse, Lawrence already owned a collection of approximately 50 antique guns. He built two additional rooms onto the little house after their daughter June was born and in one of these displayed a few revolvers on the wall and 12 rifles in a small display cabinet.

By 1951, Lawrence's knowledge and interest in guns was becoming known to his neighbours, many of whom gave him old guns they had around their farms. Others came to see his growing collection. Of the many friends he made through this interest in guns, no one became a greater friend than Alva Bair.

Alva was born on May 14, 1918 and grew up on a homestead about eight miles east of the town of Milk River. Many of his childhood experiences were similar to those of Lawrence's. Alva experienced the change from wagons to vehicles and was neighbours with many of the original Milk River area homesteaders. After completing the

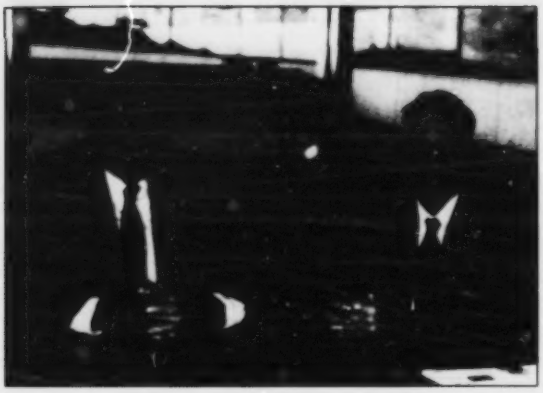

Figure 3 Alva Bair and Lawrence Halmrast.

eighth grade, Alva left school and began farming full time with his father, Leland and brother, John. He spent the winters trapping and hunting throughout southern Alberta, particularly along the Milk River. Alva was always an outdoorsman, strong and healthy and he loved the wide-open prairies and coulees.

On October 7, 1943, Alva married Nellie Kingsbury, a girl from Lucky Strike, east of Milk River. About this time he and his brother took over the farm from their dad, who retired to Milk River. Alva and Nellie moved into his boyhood home and the two brothers farmed as partners.

In the fall of 1951, the Bair brothers were rained out during harvest. No work could be done, so when it was suggested they go visit Lawrence Halmrast and see his gun collection, Alva went along. Alva can still remember that first meeting and how he and Lawrence just seemed to "click". He talked to Lawrence no more than 15 minutes before they knew each had found a friend. Lawrence was 26 and Alva was 33 years old.

Lawrence and Alva both had great respect and appreciation for nature. They shared an interest in wildlife, hunting, archaeology and history of the Milk River area. They decided to explore as much of the Milk River as possible and began to meet regularly every Wednesday and Sunday throughout the winter. They would pick a place to explore, drive there and spend the whole day combing a stretch of cliffs, looking for buffalo jumps, burial sites, Indian writings, fossils or anything else of interest. On their next field day they would return and explore the next section. Many local people thought they were crazy for spending so much time hiking around. Some accused them of poaching. "Why else would anyone spend so much time outdoors in winter," they reasoned. Conservation was not a mainstream topic in the 1950s and few people were interested in the history of the Milk River area. In many ways, Alva and Lawrence were 20 years ahead of their time.

Because of their explorations and discoveries, Alva and Lawrence soon became the resident experts on the Milk River area. They conducted archaeological digs at several sites and preserved the artifacts they found in small displays in their homes. Lawrence kept careful record of the locations of their many finds on maps, with his artifacts stored in tin tobacco boxes labelled with corresponding numbers. In 1964, both men joined the newly formed Archaeological Society of Alberta Chapter in Lethbridge and became involved in mapping and recording archaeological sites on a more professional basis, contributing to many reports written by the Chapter. Lawrence and Alva acted as field captains for the Society while investigating sites in the Milk River area. While Alva joined the club for only a few years, Lawrence soon became a very active member and remained so for the rest of his life.

Alva and Lawrence also hunted big game together through the 1950s and 1960s, eventually reaching their goal of hunting every big game animal in Alberta. They hunted all over the southern prairies and along the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains from Waterton north to the Peace River country. Some of the areas they consistently returned to were the Blue Lake area north of Waterton Lakes National Park, the mountains east of Jasper National Park and the Kananaskis Valley. Their favourite hunting area, however, was the Milk River canyon. At least once a season they would take Alva's truck and camper and stay out for a week hunting in the badlands. In Philip Coulee, which leads down to the old Pendant d'Oreille Northwest Mounted Police Post, they had some of their best hunts, resulting in a number of the trophy deer mounts both Alva and Lawrence displayed in their homes. Lawrence and Alva were so well known for their interest and skill in hunting that the local papers often wrote about their trips.

After one trip into Kananaskis, the local paper reported that Lawrence returned home with one of the largest black bears ever shot in the area.

Hunting was a passion but it was also an excuse to get out and explore. The two men spent nearly as much time discovering fossils, tipi rings and historic sites, or collecting rocks and admiring the scenery, as they did hunting, particularly on their trips into the Milk River canyon. Comradeship was equally important and often Alva and Lawrence invited others along; Harvey Leslie, a Mil'. River resident, was a frequent companion.

The physical differences between the two friends were most noticeable on hunting and exploration trips. Alva was every bit the strong, husky outdoorsman with a long, mile-eating stride. He could hike for hours and enjoyed covering lots of ground. Lawrence, on the other hand, was slight of build and did not have the endurance Alva did. Although he shared Alva's love of the outdoors, Lawrence would only hike long distances or up mountains if he had to. Perhaps his years of chain smoking, begun at age 14, contributed to his lack of stamina. This difference did not stop Lawrence from making many discoveries or bagging the trophies he wanted, however. His keen eyes and tremendous patience more than compensated for the differences.

Eventually, Lawrence and Alva's passion for hunting led them on adventures beyond Alberta's borders. They went to British Columbia to hunt cougars. Mexico for javelina, San Diego for sport fishing, Yellowknife to explore the Arctic and to Ontario for a foxhunt. Alva extended his hunting and explorations to Africa, South America and Asia, but Lawrence never developed an interest in travelling outside of North America.

When reminiscing about their most memorable hunts, Alva and Lawrence recalled one trip to Blue Lake when the two friends decided to explore the top of a nearby mountain while the rest of the party went hunting. Nearing the top of the bare peak, close to the edge of a cliff, the wind started to blow so hard that it began dislodging rocks. One piece cut Lawrence's face, while others made short work of the newly polished stock Lawrence had just installed on Alva's rifle. With no vegetation or boulders for cover, the two men sought protection by lying prone on the ground. Each time the wind died down a bit they would creep downhill about 20 yards, then lie flat as the gale began again. They kept up this slow crawl for about a quarter mile before they were finally able to stand up and walk down the mountain. It was a scary situation. "If the wind had been only five percent higher," Alva recalls, "it would have floated us right off that cliff and there were huge cliffs below. You could see why no tree or vegetation could possibly survive up there."

On one of several trips into the mountains southwest of Grande Prairie, Lawrence, Alva and Harvey Leslie experienced one of their wettest adventures. It rained steadily every night for the entire week. All the men had for shelter was a small blue canvas tarp. One night the frying pan, left out in the open, filled with two inches of water. Despite wet wood and meals of only soup and rice, they still managed to bag one caribou and two grizzly bears, one of which put them into a rather precarious situation. Lawrence wounded the bear and it ran off into the bush. The men waited for a while until they thought the grizzly was dead, then went looking for it. Suddenly the bear came charging out of the bush heading directly for them. All three men fired as the bear charged, raging to within ten feet of where they stood before finally turning and disappearing into the bushes again. About two minutes later they found it dead. For the rest of Lawrence's life, that bear graced his den, the huge head and hide attesting to its size.

Perhaps the most memorable trip for Lawrence was the one he took with Alva Bair and John Bardell, a friend from Calgary, to Yellowknife, Northwest Territories. The first year a road was opened from Alberta to Yellowknife, they drove up and spent three weeks. They hoped to hunt caribou but found, to their surprise, that no one had ever heard of a non-resident license and the NWT officials did not know how to deal with their request, or if it was even legal for non-residents to hunt in the territories. The three men shot a few Snowshoe Hares, but decided not to hunt anything else. As Alva related, "We didn't need to. We were having a great time."

They had begun asking about licenses when they crossed into the Northwest Territories, but it was

not until they got to Yellowknife that they finally met a Mountie who was able to confirm that non-residents were not permitted to hunt. However, he informed them he was going fishing the next day and asked if Lawrence, Alva and John wanted to come along. "We've got a brand new boat and I want some company," he said. "And you guys want to go up the Yellowknife River." It was an outstanding trip. It was fall and the fish were just starting to run. Twelve miles upstream they reached the base of a waterfall, where simply by casting in different directions, they were able to catch Lake Trout, Arctic Grayling and Northern Pike, all from the same spot. They spent time fishing along the Hay River on the return trip, exploring the dramatic Lady Evelyn and Alexandra Falls.

As with all his other hobbies, Lawrence immersed himself in all aspects of hunting, including marksmanship and taxidermy. Teaching himself the latter art, Lawrence produced his own mounts from many of the animals he hunted during the late 1950s and early 1960s, including a coyote, fox, badger and bobcat. Lawrence mounted his trophy deer heads as well but had them remounted by a professional taxidermist during the 1970s.

Marksmanship was something at which Lawrence also excelled. He won the Dominion Marksman Expert award in 1954, the Sick's Brewery trophy in 1967 and a bronze, silver and gold medal for the Canadian Centennial Marksman. During the years his son Dale was in the Boy Scout movement, Lawrence taught target shooting to many southern Alberta Cub and Scout groups. Afterwards, Lawrence became the Southern Alberta Co-ordinator for target shooting at the Alberta Summer Games, handling the small bore competitions for close to eight years. He travelled to Coleman, Warner, Granum, Raymond, Pincher Creek, the Crowsnest Pass, Milk River or wherever the games were to be held, set up the target range and ran the competitions.

Both Alva and Lawrence became very involved in the Alberta Fish and Game Association, each serving as Director a number of times for several of the local clubs. They believed in treating the land and wildlife with respect and instilled many young hunters with good hunting ethics through their participation in Hunter Education Programs.

Both Alva and Lawrence were named Sportsman of the Year. Andy Russell, well known conservationist and former big game guide presented Lawrence with his engraved silver plate in 1965. This award was given in recognition of the outstanding work Lawrence had done with the Boy Scouts and other young people in southern Alberta. On February 5, 1965, he was also given a Distinguished Service Recognition Certificate by the Fish and Game Association which read, "The members of the Executive Board of this Association take pleasure in recognizing the exemplary and outstanding endeavours of Lawrence D. Halmrast in promotion of the Association's objectives and tender hereby their expression of sincere gratitude."

During the 1960s, Lawrence and Alva were responsible for setting up most of the trophy competitions and for scoring the trophy animals for members of the local fish and game clubs in southern Alberta. Eventually they were appointed official scorers for the Boone and Crockett Club, travelling every year for over 25 years to Foremost, Pincher Creek and other southern Albertan towns to measure trophies for the North American competitions. Lawrence and Alva never missed the annual Willow Valley Fish and Game Club competition in Pincher Creek, one of the largest trophy competitions in North America. The two men won their share of competitions during the years they hunted as well, as evidenced by Lawrence's den full of trophies and certificates.

Alva regarded setting up competitions as probably the most important activity he and Lawrence did for the fish and game clubs. He believed that competitions helped to bring out sportsmanship in people and increase their enjoyment of the outdoors. Both men felt that in order to win, people had to get out and spend a long time looking at different animals and their environment and thereby begin to appreciate them more.

In addition to hunting, Lawrence and Alva also acted as guides. One of the most memorable and well known people they guided was Jack O'Connor, the long-time gun editor of Field and Stream magazine. O'Connor had hunted in India, Africa and many other countries and wrote many articles about his experiences. When Alva decided to go hunting in

Africa, he wrote to Mr. O'Connor asking for advice. After they exchanged several letters, Jack invited Alva to Idaho. Lawrence, Alva and some of their friends accepted his invitation. During their visit, Mr. O'Connor asked the men how the upland game bird hunting was in southern Alberta. In the 1960s, bird hunting was at its peak in the Milk River region, so Lawrence and Alva invited Jack for a hunt that fall. The hunt was so successful that Jack returned each fall for a number of years to hunt with Lawrence and Alva. O'Connor wrote several articles about the hunts for Field and Stream and Outdoor Life, calling the Milk River the finest game bird area that he had ever seen. The article that attracted the most attention was the one that described how he bagged three species of game birds from one spot, a Sharp-tailed Grouse, a Ring-necked Pheasant and a Gray Partridge. Soon other hunters from the United States began coming to the area. Lawrence and Alva guided men from as far away as New York and even met Bing Crosby, who visited the area annually for 4 or 5 years.

In May 1961, Lawrence and Alva submitted an article about big game hunting to Field and Stream magazine entitled "Alberta Snow Hunt." That helped bring another type of hunter into their territory. In 1970 Ed Zern, a writer for Field and Stream, wrote about the two men taking out Zern, Hugh Grey, the magazine's editor and Frank Dufresne, author of No Room for Bears and other wildlife books. The article says Alva and Lawrence took the men to "some of their choicest hot spots and to an old buffalo killing ground to find arrowheads." No guiding trip was complete unless Lawrence and Alva showed the visitors some of the amazing country and unique palaeontological or archaeological treasures the Milk River held.

Around 1968 Lawrence quit hunting. He had immersed himself in the hobby, learned everything he wanted, achieved all his goals and was ready for a new challenge. Lawrence continued to enjoy the companionship hunting brought, however and loved to take other people out, either as a guide or just an observer. He remained active in the local fish and game clubs, scoring trophy animals and encouraging good hunter ethics and wise use of the land. Lawrence's son, Dale, became the hunter in the family and took an interest in taxidermy as well, teaching himself just as Lawrence had. Lawrence always loved to hear hunting stories and was always available to offer Dale guidance in his taxidermy work, but he did not want to do it himself anymore. The last time he fired a shot was in the early 1970s.

Alva and Lawrence added another hobby to their list during the 1960s, after Alva met John Kolesar, a farmer from west of Milk River. John was an avid collector of Indian artifacts, historic objects and

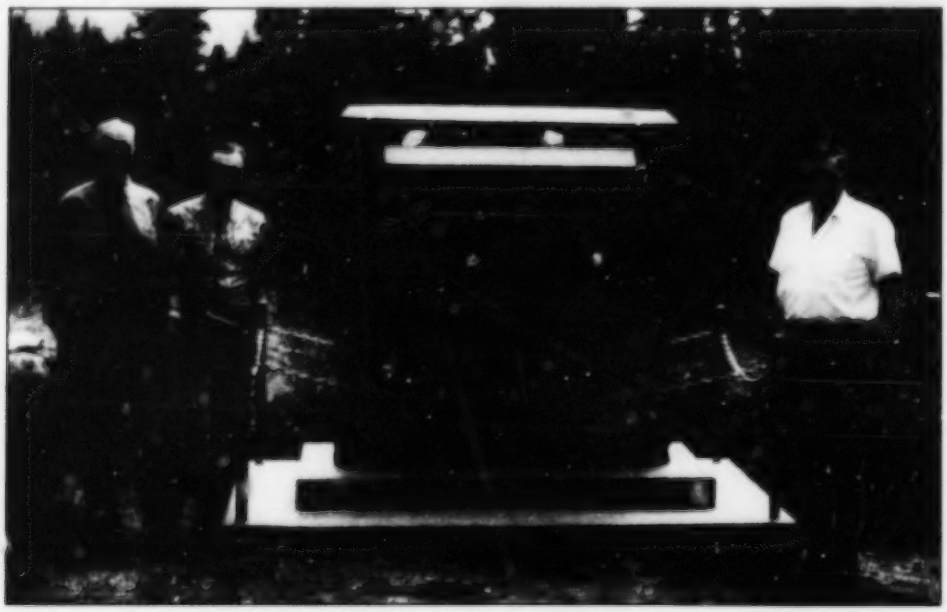

Figure 4 John Kolesar, Lawrence Halmrast and Alva Bair at the cairn they built at Camp Impeesa.

other items from the Milk River and the two men soon became good friends. Fascinated by rocks, John soon got Alva interested. Alva can remember John saying, "In nature, next to flowers for beauty, it is rocks." Alva was very intrigued by the unique stone fireplace in John's livingroom. When he learned that John had built it, Alva asked if John would teach him the art. Their first joint project was an outdoor fireplace in Alva's farmyard, followed by one in Alva's den. Lawrence became interested and soon built both an indoor and outdoor fireplace at his farm as well.

Word spread about the three men's talent for stone work. Alva, John and Lawrence were soon in demand to build historic cairns at various sites around southern Alberta. Their first cairn was unveiled on July 4, 1960, at the dedication of Gold Springs Park, south of the town of Milk River. Fittingly, it housed a plaque donated by Lawrence's father. Other cairns followed over the next few years, including one in 1964 to mark the site where the Whoop-Up Trail crosses the International Boundary Line, about six miles west of Coutts. The plaque commemorates the international scouting effort to mark remnants of the trail. At the school in Warner the three men crafted a special cairn to display the bell from the original prairie schoolhouse. At Del Bonita they constructed two cairns, one to commemorate the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Centennial (1974) and a second one to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of Del Bonita (1987). The cairn that proved the most frustrating to build was at Camp Impeesa, a Boy Scout camp located southwest of Pincher Creek. It took many trips to complete and each trip entailed a long drive from Warner for only a few hours work. Other masonry projects included gate posts at the Foremost Cemetery and at Floyd Orcutt's farm; fireplaces for their mutual friend, Tom Bateman and for Lawrence's daughter, June; five rock wall fences; a base for a new sign at Gold Springs Park (late 1980s) and two fireplaces in Alva's retirement home in Milk River (1990s).

Lawrence and Alva purposely made their cairns of local stones; beautiful red-brown ones from the channel of the Milk River, interesting glacial stones from the local fields and pieces of petrified wood or fossiliferous rock from the Milk River badlands. They would occasionally add a rock obtained elsewhere if it was an interesting one. When they had a project underway, the two men, particularly Alva, would spend hours out scouring the area for enough rocks to complete it. They cut some stones with a rock saw to display unique patterns, but most were used in their natural condition.

Over the span of three decades, Lawrence and Alva completed a total of 27 masonry projects throughout southern Alberta, with John directing most of the ones built during the 1960s. A special rosette of stones can be found on the back of the cairns John helped build. Each time they finished a project, the three men would shake hands and say, "Thank goodness it's over. We'll never do another one." But there was always another request and they never turned one down.

Their largest and most interesting project was the 1967 Centennial Cairn, built at Milk River to display the flags of the eight countries and companies, which, over the past 400 years, had laid claim to the Milk River region. The project was initiated by Don Wilkie, Principal of the Earl Rivers High School in Milk River and funded by the federal government as a Canadian Centennial project. Alva, Lawrence and John started the project in 1966, with the help of many local people. The finished cairn was unveiled on May 1, 1967. It weighed an estimated 37 tonnes and stood approximately two metres tall, a metre thick and four metres long. One large plaque, eight small ones and a ninth acknowledging the builders, were set into the cairn. Beside the cairn, eight flagpoles were erected. For over 25 years this cairn and the Travel Alberta tourist booth beside it acted as a focal point for the town of Milk River, attracting thousands of tourists annually. The cairn and the campground built beside it still remain, although the Travel Centre was upgraded and relocated across the river from the cairn in 1989.

Stone masonry seemed to lead naturally into lapidary work, particularly rock tables and clocks, a popular hobby in the 1970s. Returning from one of their many trips to Arizona, Alva and Nellie brought home some cut and polished rocks and showed them to Lawrence. The two men decided to build a large diamond saw in Alva's shop and try the craft themselves. They made everything but the diamond blade and soon built a second, smaller saw, which

Lawrence set up in his shop. Alva became so interested that he started making tables and clocks on a commercial basis; Lawrence maintained only a private interest in lapidary. The only rock tables he made were for gifts, or for himself and his family. His daughter Gail remembers searching the farm for perfect rocks to cut and polish; Lawrence would always tell her, "Look for the ugliest rock and it will be the prettiest inside."

Eventually, Lawrence became more fascinated with cutting ammonites, petrified wood and other fossils to display their beautiful patterns. Alva had switched to working with wood and resins by this time and Lawrence started experimenting with the same resins. He was soon embedding his cut fossils in resins and learned to imbed insects and other objects as well. The carefully labelled fossils were added to Lawrence's growing collections.

Lawrence's interest in gun collecting continued throughout these years and was not diminished by his growing involvement in hunting, lapidary, or archaeology. By the early 1950s, Lawrence had begun to specialize in collecting guns that were in use during the American Civil War (1861 - 1865). By 1959 he had over 150 of them. The small back bedroom was no longer large enough to display Lawrence's guns, hunting trophies and archaeological finds. The room was needed for his expanding family, which now included Dale (1952) and Gail (1959). The only place left was the basement, so Lawrence converted it into a small den in 1959. He had so many items that he even had guns hanging from the ceiling.

By 1964, Lawrence had over 300 guns in his collection. The den in the basement was too small so he decided to build an extension to the house. A neighbour, Walt Johnson, built the frame and Lawrence did the finishing. The crowning piece to the room was the stone fireplace Lawrence and Alva built across the north wall, with the arch over the hearth consisting of a series of Indian stone hammers. Lawrence covered all the walls with racks for his guns and showcases for his revolvers. Between the racks he placed his various big game trophies, artifacts, awards, photographs and other collectibles. The new den soon became a popular stopping place for friends bringing visitors to see Lawrence's collections.

Lawrence developed his gun collection by spending many of his weekends attending gun shows and meeting other collectors. Early on he began developing displays of his Civil War carbines and taking them to various shows throughout Alberta, Saskatchewan, Montana and at times

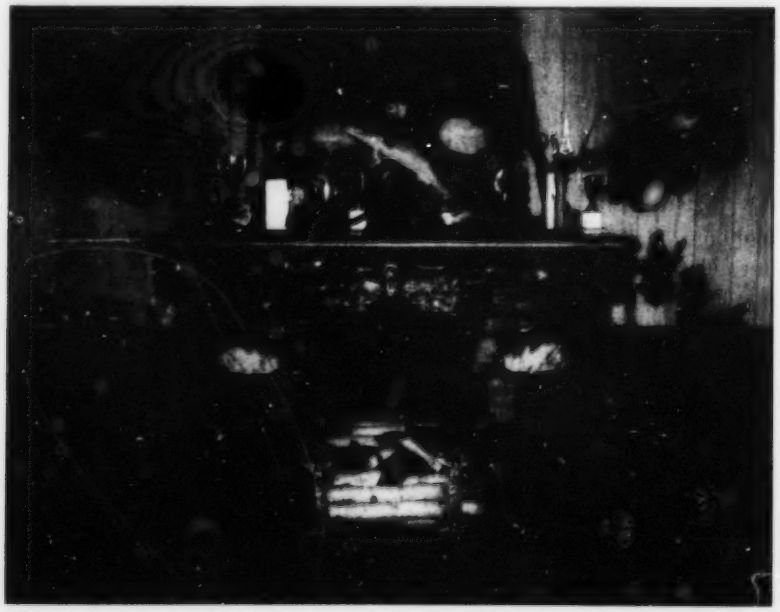

Figure 5 Lawrence's distinctive fireplace built from rock samples and stone hammers he collected.

farther afield. The whole family went on most of these trips. In fact, his children remember spending most summer weekends travelling to gun shows, the back of their station wagon full of carbines and other items. Lawrence liked the travelling and he loved "meeting people and swapping stories" about guns. Jessie was not really interested in the guns but she loved meeting and talking to people. She would spend hours sitting at the display table chatting. The same people would come back to the shows year after year and Jessie and Lawrence both made many good, lifelong friends. The family regularly visited Regina, Saskatoon, Moosejaw, Lethbridge, Calgary, Bozeman, Helena and Butte. Attending the annual Calgary Gun Show each Easter was a family tradition and a great time to visit relatives in the city. Travelling on his own, Lawrence went even farther afield, including trips to the big gun show in Las Vegas, Nevada, where he met some famous collectors like comedians Don Rickles and Buddy Hackett. Even after he had most of the guns he wanted, Lawrence continued to attend shows and put on displays through the 1970s.

With his gun collection almost complete and his hunting aims satisfied, Lawrence decided in the late 1960s that hunting with a camera instead of a rifle would be his new challenge. Although he had been taking pictures most of his life, he upgraded his equipment and began concentrating on photographing wildlife. Lawrence often commented on the benefits of shooting with a camera rather than a gun: "You don't have to clean it and pack it up and take care of the animal," he would say.

Lawrence taught himself the necessary photographic skills the way he taught himself everything else. He read many books, asked questions of other photographers and used trial and error. One of the things he enjoyed the most was taking a series of photographs of the same thing, varying the settings, to see what results he came up with. Experimenting was his most important teaching tool. His metal camera case contained at least three working camera bodies; lots of slide film, telephoto, macro and standard lenses that were always ready for a chance wildlife encounter. Lawrence carried it in his vehicle with him for the rest of his life.

Lawrence used his skills as a hunter and his infinite patience to obtain pictures of many normally shy creatures. At times he spent as much as six or seven hours quietly inching closer to an animal, or waiting motionless by a den or nest site to get two minutes worth of photographs. He documented the growth of young Burrowing Owls, Short-eared Owls and Northern Harriers at individual nest sites by returning repeatedly to photograph them as they matured. He had photographs of Sharp-tailed and Sage Grouse on their dancing grounds, Badgers and Coyotes at their dens and a large repertoire of prairie mammals, plants, birds, insects and reptiles in his collection.

Lawrence's photography had another important function. He used it to record the many archaeological, palaeontological and historic sites he and Alva discovered in their explorations around the Milk River country. Old coalmines, homestead sites, historic signatures, native writings, archaeological sites and artifacts, fossils and palaeontological sites filled his collection. Lawrence recognized that what he saw one day, might be gone the next and used his photography as a means of preserving the riches of the Milk River. He seldom took scenic pictures for their own sake. Instead he took them to record changes that were happening to a specific location over time or to document some aspect of a special trip. Except where they provided scale, were working on a site, or pointing out something, people almost never appeared in his pictures.

Between his photography, other hobbies and outdoor activities, Lawrence also ran a profitable farming operation. For the first few years after he took over his dad's farm, his father, Elmer, continued to help him, but in 1957 Elmer retired. After that Lawrence hired a man to do most of the fieldwork, while Lawrence took care of repairing the machinery, using the big metal lathe he bought and set up in his shop. Lawrence was so good at making parts and fixing equipment that his neighbours frequently asked him to fix theirs as well. Lawrence always made time for everyone, although at one point the demand became so heavy he considered charging a fee hoping to reduce the number of requests. It did not help, so he continued doing the work for free.

The main farming task Lawrence undertook was the combining, that took about two and one-half weeks of intense work. It was a chore because Lawrence had to get up at 8:00 a.m. every morning and ride the combine all day without a nap! This was totally different from his usual schedule. Lawrence was never out working on the farm before 9:00 am at any other time of year. He was a night owl, usually not starting big projects until after 10:00 pm, when things were quiet. That way, he could be sure no one would interrupt him with phone calls, visits to see his collections, or a request for a game of cards. Lawrence would work until 2:00 or 3:00 am in his den or rock shop, sleep late, get up and do his daily chores or go exploring and rest again before dinner.

When Lawrence's son, Dale, graduated from high school in 1970, he replaced the hired man. When Dale married, he moved into the original farmhouse, that had been vacant since 1968, when his grandparents left the farm and settled in Warner. Lawrence continued doing the combining and managing the farm, while Dale did the rest, eventually farming the land on a joint basis. This gave Lawrence greater freedom to engage in his numerous hobbies and he became even more involved in various clubs like the Archaeological Society. If you asked Lawrence how the farming was going, he would say "I don't know, ask Dale. I have no idea." Living side by side, there were very few days when Dale and Lawrence did not see each other, share a coffee, play a game of cards, or just visit. Dale felt he was the most fortunate of all the children to have such a close relationship with his father.

Although farming seemed like the necessary work Lawrence had to do to accomplish the things he liked to do, he was very good at farm management. He believed in farming three years ahead of himself so that he could last through unexpected drought, hail or other problems. He also believed in staying within his means. Lawrence never bought the newest, most expensive vehicles and farm equipment when an older, less expensive model would still do the job. The Halmrasts added onto their existing home, rather than building a new one. Theirs was a comfortable life but not an extravagant one.

Lawrence applied the same business sense he used in farming to his hobbies. He was a shrewd trader and dealer, especially when it came to guns. He manufactured most of his own tools for rock work, repaired and restored many of his guns himself and did his own darkroom work, all things he enjoyed, but also ones that saved money. The dollars saved were used to purchase new camera equipment or resins and to travel around southern Alberta. In the 1970s, Lawrence invested in one of the few new pieces of machinery he ever bought; a Suburban truck. A dependable vehicle was important to Lawrence and the Suburban was perfect, because it had room for the many friends Lawrence loved to take along on his excursions. In one year Lawrence would put more than three times the average mileage on his Suburban, travelling to meetings and guns shows, or covering the prairie trails around the Milk River. For many years, the brown and tan Suburban was his trademark and a welcome sight at the end of a day for his friends canoeing the Milk River or hiking through the coulees.

Family and Friends

Life on the Halmrast farm did not resemble the life of an average farm family. There were dinosaur bones being pieced together on the kitchen table, gun filings on the floor in the den and most of the walls of the house were covered with guns, trophies, artifacts and fossils. Having four kids would have made the Halmrast home an active place, but it seemed to Lawrence's children that not a week went by without someone coming over to see Lawrence's collections, to have a barbecue, or to get machinery fixed. Card parties with the Ace Hy Motorcycle Club or the local East Neighbourhood Club typically ended with Lawrence pulling out his guitar and starting up a sing-song that might last for hours. Lawrence could play the guitar, banjo and accordion by ear. Music was very much a part of family life.

Jessie was an easy-going and happy hostess and led a contented, worry-free life. She and Lawrence loved to play cards and often passed an evening playing cribbage, or joined their closest neighbours, Bert and Gaye Orcutt, for a round of "Bumps" (a card and marble board game). Sometimes the kids would play too. At other times Jessie was happy to watch television or do her own hobbies while the

children slept and Lawrence disappeared to the den or shop.

Jessie never begrudged Lawrence his days out hunting or exploring the Milk River with Alva and she loved to accompany Lawrence to archaeological meetings and gun shows or the occasional longer trip such as a hunting trip to Mexico with Alva and Nellie. When the Halmrast family travelled to the various gun shows, they would often visit the sights along the way. They saw Lewis and Clark Caverns, the Butte copper mines and many ghost towns, museums and rock shops. When Lawrence went on trips alone, the kids would look forward to his return because he always brought them souvenirs.

Lawrence took his whole family to look for dinosaur bones and artifacts and the children spent many summer evenings helping to excavate or shake the screen at the various archaeological digs Lawrence and Alva conducted. They spent a lot of time at Writing-on-Stone Provincial Park, looking at the petroglyphs and different sites, or sharing picnics with the East Neighbourhood Club.

When Gail was six years old, Lawrence helped her find her first arrowhead. She was very excited about it and remembers how good that made her dad feel. Gail became quite interested in archaeology and she frequently attended Archaeological Society meetings at the Lethbridge Community College with her parents. She went along on many of the club field trips as well, helping to map tipi rings and other sites.

The family also spent many weekends camping, even when the children were babies. Every summer Lawrence would make sure they had a family holiday, usually a camping trip to some place like Kananaskis. On these outings Lawrence taught his children the value of life, how to use the land with respect and to leave it for people to enjoy in the future. Lawrence taught his children how to shoot, using the rifle range he made in the old dugout on the farm. Carol remembers how thrilled she and June were when their dad took them out. He introduced each of them to hunting but let them decide if they wanted to pursue it.

When Dale was old enough to join the Boy Scouts, Lawrence got involved, too, as did his parents, Bea and Elmer. Lawrence served for 16 years as Chairman for the Sunshine District, which included Warner, Milk River, Coutts, Stirling and Raymond. He organized wiener roasts and target shoots, summer camps in Rocky Coulee and at Shady and the annual Winter Camporee at Writing-on-Stone Provincial Park for over 130 cubs and scouts. Lawrence taught the boys survival techniques, how to build a fire, set snares, make camp, shoot and how to get along with other people. He would bring in people to teach first aid and other subjects and help the boys work on the various Boy Scouts badges they could earn.

In 1964 Alva and Lawrence co-ordinated the International Scouting Project to mark the remaining stretches of the Whoop-Up Trail in Alberta and Montana. They worked on the Canadian side, finding hundreds of stones for the boys to create large circles with a "W" in the middle of the intact stretches of the trail. Dale still remembers the Montana-Alberta Scout Whooperee held on "No Man's Land" on the International Boundary Line, about six miles east of Coutts. Over 600 people, including 200 scouts, came to see the unveiling of the cairn and plaque built by Lawrence, Alva and John Kolesar to commemorate the Whoop-Up Trail.

To Lawrence's children he was a hero, someone to look up to. Each wished that someday they could be like him. It seemed that whatever Lawrence tried to do he accomplished. They loved being involved in the things he was doing and benefited by the experiences. At other times, because Lawrence was so busy with meetings and helping people, their children felt like they were sharing their dad with the whole world. Still, each of the children knew they were loved and eventually they came to understand that helping and being involved was part of Lawrence's nature. Lawrence taught his children many things, both with words and actions. He treated everyone with respect, never criticized anyone and always had time for anybody, no matter what he was doing. Lawrence and Jessie made every visitor feel at home and they shared everything freely, never asking for anything in return. They were genuinely good people and their children learned from their example.

Triumph, Tragedy and Rebirth

Lawrence was very active with the Archaeological Society of Alberta throughout the 1970s, as this hobby increasingly became his primary focus. He was Provincial Representative for the Lethbridge Chapter and attended the monthly meetings in Lethbridge, the provincial meetings in Edmonton and the various conferences in Alberta and Saskatchewan. In addition, he continued to give slide shows and conduct field trips to map archaeological sites around the Milk River country.

During the 1970s Lawrence and Alva remained active supporters of conservation efforts in southern Alberta. The largest conservation activity they were involved in and one they were particularly proud of, was the Verdigris Coulee project. Doug St. Peter, a Milk River resident, suggested to Alva that the water flow in Verdigris Coulee be increased to make the intermittent lake a permanent water body, thereby increasing waterfowl populations. Alva contacted George Freeman of Ducks Unlimited, who asked Lawrence and Alva to meet with each landowner to discuss the idea, since the two men were so familiar with the local residents. Over the course of several days, Alva and Lawrence met and talked to 37 different landowners surrounding Verdigris Coulee. They attended many meetings about the project, continuing to talk to local people at every opportunity. Ducks Unlimited had initially planned only a small volume of water diversion, but they were able to expand their plans with the aid of the County of Warner and associated irrigation districts. Sixteen years after Alva and Lawrence did their groundbreaking work, the project was finally completed: 2700 acres of water in several permanent lakes and 34 miles of canals now extend from the Ridge Reservoir north of Warner to where Verdigris Coulee meets the Milk River. Farmers along Verdigris Coulee use the water for irrigation and the new permanent lakes support hundreds of nesting ducks, geese and shorebirds, as well as thousands of migrating waterfowl.

The two men continued their involvement with the local fish and game clubs as well. Lawrence received a Certificate of Merit from the Foremost Fish and Game Association in 1981 for "exemplary and outstanding endeavours in the promotion of the Association's objectives," and in 1987, the

Figure 6 Petroglyphs at Writing-on-Stone Provincial Park.

Southern Alberta Outdoorsmen, Aden Club, also gave him a Certificate of Merit.

It was during the 1970s that Lawrence began one of his most notable photographic tasks. He set out to systematically photograph every petroglyph and pictograph along the Milk River. He originally began photographing native writings in 1947, documenting them as he and Alva explored the valley. Using these as the starting point, Lawrence revisited old sites with a more discriminating eye and searched for new ones with renewed passion. Seemingly no one but Lawrence and Alva had ever visited all the writings before. Most researchers concentrated on the main petroglyph site within Writing-on-Stone Provincial Park and a few visited Verdigris Coulee.

Up until then, Lawrence had used slide film for his photography work, but he soon found it inadequate. It took too long to get them processed. One night a Lethbridge friend, Ray Schuler, showed Lawrence how to develop black and white negatives and make prints from them. Excited about the possibilities, Lawrence soon purchased his own equipment, built himself a small darkroom in the den and began using black and white film for the petroglyph project. He would take pictures of the native writings at a particular site during the day, develop them that night and return the next day to retake those that did not turn out; a very effective arrangement. He soon became an accomplished print maker and was fascinated by how he could enhance the images using various tones of black, white and grey to change the contrast.

The petroglyph project involved countless hours out in the field and in the dark room and hundreds of rolls of film. Lawrence had no idea exactly how many photographs he took over the years, but he estimated it was in the thousands. With his infinite patience, dedication and habit of totally immersing himself in a hobby, Lawrence succeeded in his task. With well over 95% of the writings photographed by the end of the 1970s, Lawrence collaborated with the Lethbridge Chapter of the Archaeological Society of Alberta on Story-on-Stone, a 76-page photographic record of the writings along the Milk River, published in 1980.

By the late 1970s, the pace Lawrence had led throughout most of his adult life began to slow and his health began to deteriorate. After Jessie broke her leg in 1981 and ceased accompanying him on field trips or to meetings, Lawrence's health took a steep decline. He was plagued with pain from his teeth and seemed tired all the time.

By Christmas Day 1982, Lawrence was so sick that he was hallucinating and was able only to get up for a few minutes before becoming exhausted. Alva insisted he go to the hospital, but it was New Year's Day before Jessie finally convinced him to go. The doctor in Milk River transferred Lawrence almost immediately to the Lethbridge hospital where he spent the next three weeks on medication. What Lawrence was suffering from was never communicated to the family. Lawrence and Jessie were both very private people in this regard. Perhaps no one really knew.

Almost a month passed before Lawrence was released from the hospital. Later that spring he returned briefly to have all his teeth removed. At the same time, Lawrence had an operation to remove a small growth on his lower lip. This left him with a short scar extending from his mouth to his chin, that caused the characteristic tight-lipped appearance of his smile in later life.

By May, Lawrence had almost completely recovered and started becoming quite active again, going to Lethbridge for meetings and getting involved in his hobbies once more. I met Lawrence that summer and he often mentioned that he had almost died that winter of double pneumonia and could not remember anything about the time between Christmas and New Year's. To a few close friends and his children, Lawrence said he had had cancer on his lip but the doctors had removed it all. To others, Lawrence said the operation was to get rid of some persistent cold sores. From then on Lawrence was always careful not to go out in cold winds and he often had trouble breathing when climbing hills or walking quickly.

This brush with death changed Lawrence. He cut down on his once heavy smoking and eventually quit. Reassessing his life, Lawrence decided it was time to retire from farming. In the spring of 1983, he told his son Dale: "I can't do it. Here." and

turned the whole operation over to him. Lawrence was only 58 years old and never missed farm work or had any desire to go back to it, even for a day. He would help Dale fix machinery or pick up parts in town, but the rest was up to Dale. On only two occasions did Lawrence ever drive a piece of farm equipment again. Once to try out the new four wheel drive tractor Dale bought and once to pull Dale's truck out when it got stuck in the dugout. Now, Lawrence devoted all his time to doing the things he loved; looking for arrowheads and fossils, attending Archaeological Society meetings, participating in programs at Writing-on-Stone Provincial Park, visiting friends and playing cards with Jessie.

On January 22, 1984, tragedy struck again. Jessie, his wife and friend of 36 years, died suddenly, leaving Lawrence alone and shaken. Both family and friends worried about how Lawrence would cope with his loss.

In the months following her death, Lawrence lost his recently regained energy and purpose in life. Like many widowers, he didn't spend enough time taking care of himself and lost a lot of weight. It was hard on him since he had always been very slim. Life was a lot lonelier and Lawrence often felt like a "third wheel" without Jessie. He stopped playing cards, lost interest in working in his shop and became quite reclusive. In spite of the efforts made by family and friends, by June of that year, Dale noticed his father once again starting to develop the vacant look he had had during his recent illness.

Fortunately fate intervened. The Warner Historical Society decided to produce a local history book and asked Lawrence if he would act as the "Picture Man." He immediately agreed. He had the experience with black and white photography from his years photographing petroglyphs and pictographs for the book Story-on-Stone and he had ample time for a new project.

Lawrence soon buried himself in the work, shooting all the pictures the Society needed and reproducing hundreds of photographs lent by Warner residents. His little dark room was so full of processed film that Lawrence ended up hanging rolls of wet film from the antlers of the trophy deer in his living room. He worked almost every night for months, usually starting after 8 p.m. and not finishing until 2:00 or 3:00 in the morning. In the end, Lawrence estimated that he produced over 3000 prints for the book, "Wagons to Wings." Despite all his work, Lawrence refused any money from the Society for his efforts.

A New Lease on Life

Lawrence slowly began to recover from Jessie's death and started meeting people again. One day, while attending the annual Milk River Bonanza Days, a woman walked up to Lawrence and introduced herself as Marjorie Henrie. Lawrence recognized her name. Marjorie's husband, Mert Henrie, had been a scout leader when Lawrence was the District Chairman and had worked as a mechanic in Milk River for years.

Marjorie was concerned about what to do with her late husband's collection of antique and modern mechanic's tools. Alva had suggested she talk to Lawrence about it. Lawrence offered to photograph Mert's wall display and then take Marjorie to meet with Jack Elliott, Curator at the Galt Museum in Lethbridge. It was not until some five months later, however, that Lawrence called Marjorie about the photographs. He later told her it took that long to find the courage to speak with her.

A friendship formed and quickly blossomed into a romance. Soon Lawrence and Marj, as he called her, were spending a lot of time together. They attended Archaeological Society meetings, went out for dinner, and to local dances. Theirs was a short courtship. Both Lawrence and Marjorie felt they did not want to waste time at their age. One day in March, barely two months after they started going out, Lawrence said to Marjorie, "I've had cancer but I've just had a complete check-up and the doctor has given me a clean bill of health. Would you marry me?" Marjorie thought that was a good idea but first she wanted to be sure that Lawrence's children and her own approved of the union. To visit each of the children prior to the wedding, Lawrence and Marjorie had to travel throughout much of Alberta and the western United States. Lawrence gave Marjorie a diamond ring on her birthday, April 13 and they were married on Lawrence's birthday, May 20, 1984 in Marjorie's

back yard in Milk River. All the children and grandchildren from both families, over 30 in total, were present.

Meeting and marrying Marjorie brought vitality back into Lawrence's life and he soon developed an even more active lifestyle than he had in the early 1970s. Although Marjorie had never been involved in any of Lawrence's hobbies, she decided that she was going to participate in everything he did. Marjorie went everywhere with Lawrence; to meetings, mapping tipi rings, photographing petroglyphs and searching for arrowheads and dinosaur bones. While Lawrence's children had been raised learning about dinosaurs and Indians, Marjorie's family had never been exposed to them. Lawrence took great delight in taking them out and introducing them to fossil hunting or to mapping tipi rings. He opened up a whole new world for Marjorie as well and she enjoyed every minute of it.

They enjoyed sharing their evenings together at home, playing crib or visiting with their closest neighbours, the Orcutt's and playing Bumps with them. Almost every day they visited Lawrence's mother in Warner and often travelled to Lethbridge for evening meetings. Weekends were seldom quiet, with one or another of their children's families coming to visit or the two of them going on a road trip somewhere.

Like Jessie, Marjorie found herself living in a house full of Lawrence's treasures. Marjorie often told her granddaughter, Michelle, that every time she wanted to use anything in the kitchen, she had to work around dinosaur bones. Lawrence's collection of guns, fossils, rocks and artifacts continued to attract many visitors to their home. Marjorie happily became hostess, serving coffee and treats and talking to the many people who dropped in. She started a guest book the first year they were married and within nine months the pages were filled with over 500 names, a typical number of visitors most years.

Lawrence often displayed parts of his fossil collection at annual events like the Warner Whooperee Days, Milk River Bonanza Days, craft fairs and at gun shows in Calgary, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat and Saskatchewan. Marjorie always sat with Lawrence at the displays and talked to the various people who wandered by. At first she knew nothing about the material but she learned quickly, by necessity. Marjorie will never forget the time Lawrence set up a display on the Devil's Coulee dinosaur egg site for the Lethbridge Rock and Gem Show. She was sitting with Lawrence when somebody came by looking for a guide to take a bus-load of people out to Devil's Coulee. Lawrence's son-in-law, Bill, volunteered Lawrence. Just as Lawrence was leaving, a bus-load of people came to see his display and with a "My wife will tell you all about it," he left a very shocked Marjorie to talk to the crowd. Marjorie soon became a very capable interpreter and Lawrence often left her to talk to the public while he visited other displays and people.

Lawrence's pet project during those years continued to be the upgrading of his photographic

Figure 7 Petroglyphs at Writing-on-Stone Provincial Park.

collection of the pictographs and petroglyphs along the Milk River. His aim was to produce an updated, corrected version of Story-On-Stone, since some photographs were out of order, a few were missing or could be improved upon. It became a game with park staff to see if anyone could find a Petroglyph Lawrence had never seen but, no matter how obscure, Lawrence inevitably would return with a photograph from his collection of any new discoveries. Lawrence also spent many hours researching and trying to find interpretations of the syllabic writing he discovered on the cliffs along the river. Bob Ward, Park Ranger at Writing-on-Stone Provincial Park, eventually gave Lawrence his own key to the Archaeological Preserve gate, because Lawrence spent so much time photographing the writings in the park. Bob felt Lawrence was one of the best resources the park had because of all the time he spent teaching new staff the history of the area.

Lawrence expanded his interest in photography, joining the Lethbridge Camera Club and spending evenings listening to talks by well known photographers like Courtenay Milne, or other club members who specialized in some area of photography. The club held competitions that helped members learn how to improve their photographs. Lawrence entered and won a number of these and was one of the most active members of the club, giving talks and assisting other members in learning more about photography. None of the professional photographers Lawrence ever met, worked with, or read about ever inspired him as much as the ordinary members of the club. Lawrence felt everyone had their own way of mastering a technique, whether professional or amateur and he liked to work with the amateurs because, "They worked like you and I or anybody else would. They were trying to do a job and improve on what they were doing." Lawrence admired people who tried constantly to improve, because that was his own goal.

Lawrence continued to improve his wildlife photography skills, capitalizing on the opportunities he encountered as he drove the miles of prairie roads on field trips or to meetings.

He carried his cameras with him wherever he went and always had time to stop for a good shot. There were many situations where he had to be very quick to get the picture and one where he was not quite quick enough. One story Lawrence often told was of the time when he and his friend, Alva, witnessed a huge rock-fall along the Milk River. The camera was in the Suburban and there was just no time to get it before the dramatic event was over. Lawrence described such situations. "A lot of times you'll see a picture you want and you've only got a few seconds to get it. So you grab your camera and you run. And if you're lucky you get it and if you're not lucky you missed it." Such missed opportunities never frustrated Lawrence, however, because "there was always another day."

When asked what animals he found the hardest to photograph, Lawrence replied, "All animals are hard in a way and easy in another way." Bull Snakes, however, were particularly difficult and uncooperative subjects, never coiling up like Rattlesnakes do. Lawrence found he either had to settle for a headshot or for a long, thin object in the picture, neither presenting a truly good picture of a Bull Snake.

Rattlesnakes were a particularly fascinating animal to Lawrence and he took countless photographs of them. His enthusiasm was so infectious that eventually he even converted Marjorie into a Rattlesnake lover, of sorts, despite a life-long fear of them. Marjorie's daughter, Shannon, was astounded. "I can't believe what kind of a hold Lawrence has on you. I just can't imagine that he could get you excited about Rattlesnakes because you have hated them all you life. Now you talk about Rattlesnakes like I talk about butterflies."

The level of comfort Lawrence felt with Rattlesnakes was most noticeable on one field trip we took together at Writing-on-Stone, when we came across a rattlesnake coiled up beneath a rock. It was a nice photograph and both he and I pulled out our cameras and telephoto lenses for a close-up shot. There was just one thing wrong with the picture. A blade of grass growing a few inches in front of the rock made a line right across the snake's head, spoiling an otherwise perfect shot. When we both reached out at the same moment to move that blade of grass, Lawrence and I suddenly realized we had both become just a little too accustomed to Rattlesnakes! The blade of grass stayed put.

A particularly interesting series of Rattlesnake shots in Lawrence's collection were taken at a snake hibernaculum in Writing-on-Stone Provincial Park. The site contained many Rattlesnakes, some Bull Snakes and a few Garter Snakes. Lawrence returned every few days to the site one fall, photographing the snakes until they eventually hibernated for winter, sometime in early November. One of his photographs contains 17 Rattlesnakes outside the hibernaculum entrance. Another shows both Rattlesnakes and Bull Snakes together outside the hole.

Lawrence also had photographs of a Hog-nosed Snake, a species that is only rarely seen in southern Alberta and one that Lawrence found only twice in his lifetime.

Burrowing Owls were another favourite photographic subject. Lawrence felt they were unique because of their habit of nesting in abandoned Ground Squirrel burrows and of being active during the day, but he enjoyed them most because "they are just a comical little bird to watch." Over the last 5 to 8 years of his life, Lawrence spent hours each spring searching the countryside for Burrowing Owl nests, helping Colin Weir and other members of Operations Burrowing Owl locate new sites. One day he found 64 Burrowing Owls in 14 different nest sites! He would visit the sites nearest his farm on a daily or weekly basis, watching the owls and their nestlings as the season progressed. Lawrence had many excellent close-up photographs of these birds. His favourites included those where the birds appeared to be sleeping or winking.

The animal that took him the longest to photograph was a Badger. After spotting the animal at its den out in a field, Lawrence spent nearly 4 hours slowly creeping up to the den, then another half hour standing motionless waiting for the animal to emerge again. Finally the Badger began poking its nose out and then retreating, then coming back out again; each time exposing a little more of its body. After numerous frames, Lawrence was eventually rewarded with a beautiful shot of the Badger sitting in full view, right in front of its den.

Another challenging subject was a family of Coyotes Lawrence discovered at their den. Three holes led into the den and the Coyotes used them all randomly. Lawrence had only enough equipment to place cameras at two of the entrances, but he had patience and good luck on his side. Eventually he obtained pictures of the Coyote pups emerging, lying down and playing at the mouth of the den.

Lawrence's nature photographs included many excellent images of clouds, storms and native plants. He extended his photographic interests to fossils as well, particularly dinosaur bones. The latter images document Lawrence's personal palaeontological discoveries as well as the professional excavations in which he participated, such as the hadrosaur egg site at Devil's Coulee.

In the 1980s Lawrence became very involved with members of the Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology. Dr. Phil Currie was perhaps the first professional palaeontologist to recognize the depth of Lawrence's knowledge and the value of the finds he had made over the years in southern Alberta. Before this, whenever Lawrence contacted palaeontologists about what he felt were significant finds, no one had ever come to investigate. Lawrence's association with Dr. Currie and the Tyrrell Museum grew over the years, especially after the discovery of dinosaur eggs at Devil's Coulee in 1987. Lawrence and Marjorie assisted in many excavations and scouted out potential sites for the museum. He developed and manned a special display for the public open house at Devil's Coulee and he was eventually asked to serve as a member of the Board for the Friends of the Tyrrell Museum. In 1991, he was designated a Paleo Trustee, responsible for assessing fossil finds along the Milk River for the Tyrrell Museum.

In addition to maintaining his usual hobbies, Lawrence developed one new one while he and Marjorie were married. He had joined the Southern Alberta Rock Hounds in the early 1980s but attended only a few meetings before Jessie died. In 1984, however, his interest heightened and by 1986, Lawrence and Marjorie were attending every meeting. The two of them worked together to prepare slide lectures for the group on such topics as the Red Deer River, the Yukon, Yellowstone National Park, Custer's Battlefield, hunting and fishing trips, Writing-on-Stone Provincial Park, southern Alberta archaeological sites, Devil's

Coulee and other dinosaur sites. Lawrence also quickly became the club's authority on identifying rocks, fossils and artifacts and gave demonstrations of arrowhead making and casting replicas.

Lawrence and Marjorie went on many of the rock club's outings and often led field trips to archaeological sites or to observe wildlife, particularly Burrowing Owls. They put together many displays of Lawrence's fossils for annual rock and gem shows in Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Edmonton, Moose Jaw and Calgary, as well as the Helen Schuler Coulee Centre in Lethbridge. In recognition of their contributions, the club presented Marjorie and Lawrence with a certificate in 1990, which read "In recognition of outstanding service presenting programs for the Southern Alberta Rock Hounds."

Through his association with the rock club, Lawrence renewed his interest in lapidary work. He purchased a rock grinder and began to experiment with cutting and polishing stones. He made a number of pendants and bolo ties and gave most of these away to friends and family. In 1991, Lawrence made a display of various types of polished stones, each made into one inch long, oval-shaped "cabs" (cabochons), to show off the different qualities and textures of the stones. Lawrence also designed a logo for the Federation Show in Lethbridge in 1987, depicting a hatching dinosaur egg. The logo was eventually used on baseball caps and pins during Milk River Bonanza days and Marjorie even put the design on a quilt.

Another hobby to which Lawrence devoted a lot of time during these years was making casts of fossils and arrowheads. Lawrence loved to share his treasures with others but did not have enough original material to be able to keep giving items away. Casts were a good solution. After seeing some casts for sale at the Royal Tyrrell Museum bookstore, Lawrence began experimenting with the resins he and Alva used for their wood and stone work. In no time at all he had developed his own technique, which included using black crayon shavings for colour and mixing sand with the resin to produce a natural looking base. His casts faithfully reproduced the tiny serrations on the teeth of carnivorous dinosaurs and the minute percussion fractures on arrowheads. He gave almost all of them away.

The 1980s were also a time of many canoe trips along the Milk River. Although Lawrence never cared much for canoeing, Alva loved it and found it an excellent way to show people the many treasures in the Milk River valley. Alva guided local residents, numerous visitors and even the media on trips down the river, always including stops for hikes up the coulees and along the cliffs to see petroglyphs, historic signatures, burial sites, buffalo jumps, tipi rings or old homestead sites; discoveries he and Lawrence had made over the years. Although his favourite route was Gold Springs or Coffin Bridge to Writing-on-Stone Provincial Park, Alva eventually canoed every stretch of the river from Del Bonita to the United States border, a distance of almost 200 miles.

On almost every major trip Alva made, Lawrence was a vital part of the outfit, though he seldom stepped into a canoe. He was the drop off and pickup man and met the crew at lunch stops and hiking sites. Lawrence loved the outings, meeting new people, exploring and taking photographs. Invariably Lawrence discovered more in a day than the canoe party did.

While Alva's wife, Nellie, accompanied him in the canoe, Marjorie stayed with Lawrence on land. Marjorie was always astonished by how the two men seemed to know just exactly what the other would do, without ever discussing it. She noticed this the first time she accompanied Lawrence on a trip where Alva was guiding a group down the South Saskatchewan River to Medicine Hat. Marjorie asked Lawrence if he was going to talk to Alva about when they would be arriving in Medicine Hat, as the group would be gone almost three days. Lawrence replied that he would know when they got in and never did talk to Alva about it. The day they were to pick up the group, Lawrence and Marjorie drove to Medicine Hat, leaving at no set time and in no particular hurry. They were just entering the city when Lawrence said, "Well, we'd better go see." Lawrence drove over to the bridge and there the canoes were, floating down the river. Alva said that he and Lawrence had been together so many years they didn't have to talk, they just knew what each other would do.

Over the years, scores of people benefited from the combined knowledge and expertise of Alva and Lawrence. The two men concentrated on educating people about what an important resource the Milk River valley is, how rich its history is and how important it is to preserve it. Their efforts built support for the preservation of the area especially with local residents and, no doubt, contributed to the ease with which new lands were acquired in 1991 to expand Writing-on-Stone Provincial Park.

The two men organized canoe trips to the Missouri, the Marias and the South Saskatchewan Rivers, but the Milk River remained their favourite. To Marjorie and Lawrence the sight of a long line of brightly coloured canoes and canoeists passing by on the Milk River was an unforgettably beautiful scene. Lawrence's camera was always busy recording them.

Wishing to protect the river as an important and scenic resource, Alva and Lawrence and some of their canoeing friends set up the Milk River Canoe Club in the late 1980s. The club's primary focus was to improve access and camping spots along the river. With provincial grant funds received in 1988, Alva erected 18 signs along the river indicating public access areas, camp sites, rules of river etiquette and requests not to deface the rock cliffs. Washrooms were constructed at Coffin Bridge and Poverty Rock, along with a public shelter at the latter site. Of all the things that tourist action committees had tried to do in the Milk River region to that point, Alva believes the Milk River Canoe Club's efforts have remained as a continuing success story. "The canoeists don't spend a lot of money because they come pretty well equipped but they spend some and they tell their friends and they come down," Alva explained. "It isn't a big thing, but it helps. And you don't wear out the water."

Ultimately, the aim of the two men was to have the river designated as a Wild and Scenic River, similar to the Missouri River in the United States, in order to protect it from overuse. Alva continues to work toward this goal despite the loss of his partner.

As always, Lawrence's hours between adventures remained full. Through the 1980s he continued to help anybody who contacted him about the Milk River area. He aided Dr. Pat Barry during her research trip for her book Mystical Themes in Milk River Rock Art and provided her with many photographs to accompany the text. He guided Warren Dexter and the researchers who visited after him, in search of Ogam writings along the Milk River. When the Historical Riders Association needed help obtaining permission to ride across private land during their ride from Fort Walsh, Saskatchewan, to Coutts to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Coutts, he talked to land owners on their behalf. Lawrence assisted with the movie for Writing-on-Stone Provincial Park, explaining the significance of the area to the narrator, Canadian actor, Leslie Neilson and spent several days with the crew. Many of his days were also devoted to helping new park staff learn about Writing-on-Stone and the Milk River area.

When the new Travel Centre was being constructed in Milk River, Lawrence and Alva immediately offered to donate artifacts and fossils for the displays. Alva, Nellie, Lawrence and Marjorie were among the first to volunteer to meet and greet the public when it opened in 1989 and all four donated endless hours, talking to thousands of visitors over the next three years. Lawrence and Alva trained the other volunteers, using slide shows and field trips around the area. Days spent at the Travel Centre were highlights for Marjorie and Lawrence.

Recognition and Honours

Although he was known to southern Albertans as an expert on guns, archaeology and palaeontology, Lawrence was largely unknown to professional archaeologists and palaeontologists for much of his life. When Marjorie came into Lawrence's life, however, things began to change. She saw all the things Lawrence did for people and the contributions he had made to southern Alberta and she felt he should be recognized for his efforts. She began simply by mentioning to people some of the things Lawrence was doing, drawing him out and getting him talking. Over the years of their marriage, Lawrence eventually began to speak out and volunteer information more freely, without waiting for people to seek him out. He relied less and less on Alva to be the spokesman. It was a nice change and more people came to realize how much this quiet farmer really knew and they began pay attention to him.

Figure 8 Lawrence receiving his Honourary Doctorate of Laws at the University of Lethbridge.

During this time, in addition to his growing association with Dr. Phil Currie of the Royal Tyrrell Museum, Lawrence also developed a very rewarding relationship with Dr. Martin Magne and Jack Brink of the Archaeological Survey of Alberta. Through these two men, Lawrence's name became known among other professional archaeologists and this brought greater attention to his knowledge and discoveries.

In the last year of his life Lawrence received perhaps the highest recognition for his archaeological contributions. In April 1991, Lawrence received the Distinguished Service Award from the Archaeological Society of Alberta, honouring his long and outstanding contribution to Alberta archaeology.

As Lawrence became more widely known, he was interviewed on television in Lethbridge for a segment on dinosaurs in the Milk River area. A second segment was on Gold Butte and the gold rush era in the Sweetgrass Hills. In the fall of 1990, CBC taped a segment about Lawrence himself, for the show "Alberta Express", which spotlighted interesting Albertans. Unfortunately the show was cancelled before the segment on Lawrence was aired.

In the last five years of his life, Lawrence received three major awards, which he treasured. In 1986, he was presented with the provincial "Bighorn Award" by the Alberta Fish and Wildlife Division, for his contributions to the conservation of Alberta's natural heritage. On April 26, 1989, Lawrence proudly received the "Learning for Life Certificate of Recognition" from the Warner School System he had left in Grade 9 but contributed so much to over the years. Then, on October 19, 1991, Lawrence received the most notable of all recognition. The University of Lethbridge bestowed upon him the title of Honourary Doctorate of Laws for his contributions to the preservation of the history of southern Alberta. The day he sat with the graduating class in his cap and gown, was a proud one for Lawrence, his family and friends. With no formal training, Lawrence had accomplished what few did.

Despite these tributes, Lawrence remained unaffected to the end. He declined the invitation to give the graduation address to the University students, feeling too shy and not sure he had anything to offer. Instead, when pressed, he agreed to give a slide talk to the staff and students about some of his discoveries from southern Alberta at the smaller, less formal convocation luncheon afterward. Lawrence was pleased with the

recognition he received during those final years and proud of it, but he never expected it, or needed it. His pleasure came from doing and sharing things, not from having people notice what he did.

In truth, the most lasting recognition of Lawrence's life work and achievements will not be the awards received, or the trophies won over the years. It will be the many fine works he created, the stone cairns, mounted fossils and casts, photographs and slides; his collections of guns, fossils and artifacts; the archaeological sites he discovered and recorded; and the thousands of people with whom he shared his knowledge and love of the Milk River country.

Final Days

No one knew receiving an Honourary Doctorate would be the final achievement in Lawrence's life. At convocation for his honourary degree there were no visible clues Lawrence was not well, but shortly afterward his health began to decline. Lawrence told Dale that something was wrong but he never visited the doctor or told anyone else about it. When he finally went to see his physician in early December, the doctor diagnosed a bad case of the flu and sent Lawrence to the Lethbridge hospital for further tests. On the 13th of December Marjorie received the tragic news. Lawrence had extensive cancer in one lung and spots in the other. "Take him home and give him a good weekend," the Doctor advised her. "You mean I'm not going to get any longer?" she queried. "He might last as short as 3 weeks or as long as two years," was the reply.

Lawrence had suspected it was lung cancer when he started getting sick, but he did not tell anyone, even Marjorie. When the doctor confirmed that it was cancer, he quietly said, "Those are the breaks," and apologized to Marjorie.

Over the next few weeks every member of Lawrence's and Marjorie's family and many friends came to visit Lawrence. No one wanted to lose him. Marjorie stayed by his side constantly. She knew time was short and wanted Lawrence to be able to spend it at home without the fear of dying alone. Dale will always remember his dad's last talk with him. Lawrence told him, "Farming is bad right now, but it will get better. Just watch what you do and you will do fine." Dale's reply perhaps speaks the thoughts of many, "I had the world's best teacher. How can I go wrong."

Lawrence was very concerned about his collections. He wanted them to be preserved for all Albertans to continue to be used to teach people about the Milk River country. Acting quickly,

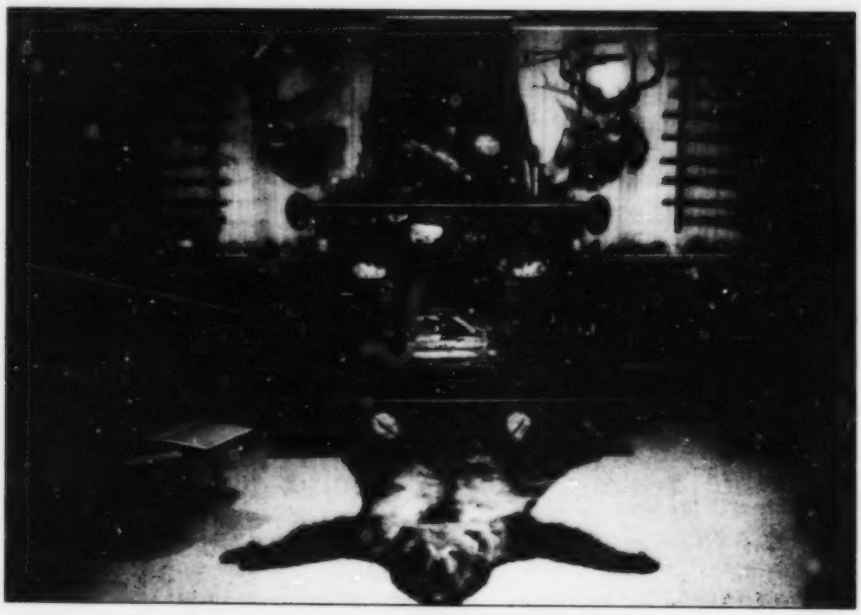

Figure 9 Lawrence's den displaying his varied collections to his many visitors over the years.

Lawrence and Marjorie set in motion the work needed to donate them to the Provincial Museum of Alberta, the Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology and Writing-on-Stone Provincial Park. Lawrence had consulted Maurice Doll, Curator of Government History at the Provincial Museum of Alberta, at least three years previously about a possible donation of his firearms but had not wanted to let his collection go until he passed away. Dr. Phil Stepney, Director of the Provincial Museum of Alberta, who worked with Lawrence and Marjorie in those last days to conclude the donation, knew the importance of those things to Lawrence. "Like many collectors, the collection is part of your being, almost physically a part of you. It's your existence and it probably contributes to the steadiness of any collector's heartbeat." He was right. The collection was Lawrence and Lawrence was careful about what was to happen to it. Together an agreement was concluded whereby Lawrence's gun, archaeological and photographic collections were donated to the Provincial Museum. The guns were certified as Cultural Property and, in the event an interpretive facility was built in the Milk River area, material from the collection would be made available on loan. Lawrence's fossil collection was donated to the Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology for research and education use and some specific items from his gun and archaeological collection given to Writing-on-Stone Provincial Park. Most important of all to Lawrence, his collections were to remain in Alberta to benefit Albertans.

During the visits needed to set up the donation, Dr. Stepney came to realize the significance of Lawrence's contributions to southern Alberta. A book about Lawrence and his accomplishments was seen as an enduring companion to the donation, if Lawrence's health permitted. After initial treatments, Lawrence returned home from the hospital and, over the next few weeks, relived his life on tape, answering questions I sent to Marjorie and talking over old times with his long time friend, Alva. This project brought a lot of joy to Lawrence's final days.

Lawrence's thirst for knowledge never diminished. As sick as he was before he died, when I was visiting him and told him about a new discovery I had made concerning one of the local landmarks, Lawrence asked his usual keen question, "Have you got anything on that?" While his friends and family knew that there was a lot more Lawrence had yet to accomplish, he had no regrets. When Marjorie said it was too bad he would not be able to go out and look for new dinosaur sites, now that he had been made a Paleo Trustee, Lawrence responded in his usual easy-going voice, "You've got to stop sometime."

Eventually even the oxygen, which had lifted Lawrence back to life for a few weeks, could not keep the cancer at bay. He died in hospital in Milk River, Friday morning, February 7, 1992, with Marjorie by his side, holding his hand when he breathed his last. We lost a very great man and a very good friend.

Lawrence's memorial was modest, the way he lived his life; a short talk and prayer, a beautiful song and the eulogy, which I was honoured to be asked to give. Over 400 people attended from all over Alberta and beyond. Afterward, I found myself following a long line of cars out to the little cemetery north of Warner, where I had once stood with Lawrence, sharing his grief over the loss of Jessie. Now we had all come, grieving for him, to place Lawrence there beside his first wife, while his good friend Tom Bateman spoke his final praise and the sun shone over the prairie land that Lawrence had loved so much.

In summing up Lawrence's life, Alva Bair said, "If everybody in the world had the same philosophy that Lawrence had, there would never be a moment's trouble anywhere. His philosophy was to share and to take what comes. I learned from Lawrence how to share. There is joy in sharing and joy in giving and actually, what else is there?"

Lawrence shared all and, in so doing, he gave much to many and became an indelible part of the history of the country he loved, the Milk River Country.

Part 2

LAWRENCE HALMRAST'S REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

ARCHAEOLOGIST AT HEART

Lawrence had a multitude of hobbies and interests throughout his life but none lasted longer than archaeology. Lawrence considered himself "an amateur historian who liked the life of an archaeologist". He never had any formal training but, through years of experience, he taught himself and became a recognized "amateur" expert. Lawrence estimated that he discovered over 1500 artifacts during his forty years of exploration, including points, scrapers, beads, awls and pottery. He helped map stone circle and effigy sites, investigated buffalo jumps and located other remnants of the ancient people who once lived in Alberta. When asked why he loved archaeology so much, Lawrence usually replied, "I don't really know"; but love it he did.

Learning About Archaeology

Lawrence's interest in archaeology began, like his interest in palaeontology, when he was a young boy picking rocks in the fields of the Halmrast farm. Lawrence had a natural talent for distinguishing between unusual rocks and true artifacts and his room was soon filled with stone hammers and arrowheads. As he grew into his mid-teens, Lawrence kept up this interest and became especially intrigued with artifacts found at ancient battle sites in southern Alberta. He developed an interest in old guns about this time and began to collect guns from the era of the Indian battles. This was the first real indication of Lawrence's serious interest in archaeology.

When Lawrence met Alva Bair in 1951, the two men discovered a mutual interest in archaeology and over the next 40 years spent thousands of hours searching for sites along the Milk River, the coulees emptying into the valley and in blowouts in adjacent fields. Their explorations covered the entire Canadian portion of the Milk River valley and farther east into the Lost River and Manyberries areas of southeastern Alberta. They developed a systematic way of searching. Driving to a designated part of the valley, they would spend the entire day combing a quarter mile section. As they walked, the two men would scan the ground and look into every nook and cranny along the cliffs and hillsides, probing for something unusual: a strange line on a cliff; beads; artifacts or bones in the cutbanks; arrowheads in the blowouts; or tipi rings in the prairie grass. On occasion they even took a 30-foot ladder with them to investigate high cliffs. On their next exploration day they would start where they had left off and continue along the next quarter mile stretch of river or coulee. They followed this pattern nearly every Sunday and Wednesday from fall to spring for approximately 20 years, until they eventually covered most of the Milk River valley, its tributary coulees and much of the surrounding uplands as well. The warm, often snowfree winter days in southern Alberta were perfect for exploring, particularly when there was little work to be done on the farm.

In the 1950s, many local residents had stone hammers and arrowheads they had picked up while farming, but few knew their significance. Lawrence and Alva started out much the same. Except for a few Saskatchewan Archaeological Society papers that Lawrence had and a few contacts with archaeologist Dr. Richard Forbis from the University of Calgary, they were on their own.

There were few resources available to learn from. Instead, the two friends developed their observation skills through many hours of exploring. They discovered where and how to look for petroglyphs and pictographs and how to recognize stones that had been aligned by a human hand to make a tipi ring or stone effigy. Over time, they both developed a real "eye" for detecting the unusual. At that time few people in the Milk River area paid much attention to these things, or even recognized them when they saw them. Lawrence and Alva were unusual in their dedication and intense interest.

As they discovered things in the field, Lawrence and Alva looked for references to identify their finds and gradually they grew more and more knowledgeable about the things they uncovered. In this

regard Lawrence was the main source. He was the "researcher" who collected relevant scientific papers, newspaper articles and books and read them thoroughly, then passed on his new knowledge to Alva.

Archaeological Findings (1950s and 1960s)

Their many hours in the field were rewarded with a wealth of discoveries. The area from Coffin Bridge to just east of Writing-on-Stone Provincial Park was especially productive due to the presence of tall sandstone cliffs full of Indian writings and fields with lots of blow-outs. The farming practices of the time, combined with a series of dry windy years during the 1950s and 1960s, produced areas blown down to "hardpan", exposing artifacts as though they had been placed there only hours before. Some of the earliest finds the two men made were Avonlea and Prairie Side-notched points, along with scrapers and debitage. As their skills developed and they covered a larger area, they began to uncover older and older points. Eventually Lawrence and Alva even found Alberta points, some of the older types of points found in the province.

In the Pinhorn, Lower Spencer, Kennedy Coulee and Lost River areas the two men uncovered a wealth of tipi rings, stone effigies and historic sites like the Pendant d'Oreille Northwest Mounted Police Post. On these eastern trips, they would load up Alva's camper and spend a week driving and walking along the edge of the coulees and the river valley, stopping at night wherever they were and continuing the next day.

A friendly rivalry existed between the two friends over who found the best things, but they laughed the most when the person behind found things the one in front had missed. One of their favourite stories was the time they were exploring Police Coulee and Lawrence made one of his best finds, an ancient bone awl. Alva had asked Lawrence to stand in a certain place while he took his picture. When he was done, Lawrence started to walk and suddenly spotted a piece of bone wedged in the dirt at the base of the coulee wall. Alva still laughs and says that because of that photograph, Lawrence got ahead of him and "stole the awl."

It was during the 1950s and 1960s that Lawrence and Alva discovered several good buffalo jumps along the Milk River. The largest was located on the south side of the river, near the mouth of Verdigris Coulee. Dr. Forbis asked Alva and Lawrence to do some excavating at the site to see if they could find any artifacts older than about 2000 years, which would justify the cost of a major dig. Alva and Lawrence set to work with a motorized shaker, sifting through the soil. They spent many hours at the site and were often visited by Lawrence's children.

The diggings produced many beautiful stone points and scrapers and one big chopper. They found numerous buffalo skulls nearby in the river as well; a number of which had the cranium smashed in. None of the artifacts, however, were ancient enough to justify a professional dig. Alva and Lawrence kept the artifacts from the site, carefully mounting them in display frames so that they would not be lost.

Some of their other major discoveries were the locations of two separate native burial sites at the mouth of Verdigris Coulee. Alva discovered one site in 1956. It consisted of a hole in the cliff at about shoulder height. By screening the sand in the cave and at its mouth, Alva uncovered a number of artifacts that included trade beads, a small copper bracelet and some bones. The cave had possibly contained a woman and a small child about two years old, buried together. A doctor from Milk River who was with Alva at the time determined the probable age of the child.

Around 1960, some people from the Museum of the Plains Indian in Browning, Montana, came to tour the area. Alva was unavailable to guide them, so they went to Verdigris Coulee, exploring on their own. They discovered a second grave higher on the cliff and removed a number of artifacts. Alva learned of their discovery and looking over the area later, found artifacts scattered below the mouth of the cave. Among the artifacts he found were a lead 44 Henry bullet (circa 1860), brass buttons linked by a chain, a belt buckle which fell apart when he touched it, a small part of a flintlock, numerous trade beads and some points. The artifacts suggested the person had been a man, possibly buried wearing a U.S. army uniform. Alva kept the

artifacts from both sites, mounting them together in a wooden frame.

Lawrence viewed his artifact collection as his "part in the preservation of southern Alberta's Indian history". He knew the value of the artifacts in helping unravel Alberta's prehistory and so was very careful when collecting to record where they came from and store or display them in such a way that artifacts from each site where all kept together. There was little professional interest in the Milk River over the years Lawrence and Alva were exploring and what they found would not have been preserved had they not collected it. Lawrence did his best to record their finds in the hopes that someday the information would be of use to archaeologists. His collection contained many fine hammerstones, scrapers, the bone awl, a bone knife, a drill, an iniskim (or buffalo stone), some metal arrowheads and hundreds of fine stone points and decorative beads. In his lifetime, Lawrence estimated that he collected over 1500 archaeological artifacts within a 60-km radius of his farm, the oldest being an 11,000-year-old point.

Lawrence used his photographic skills as another means of recording things that he knew would otherwise be lost with time, such as the petroglyphs and pictographs along the Milk River. He always hoped that someday the work he did would be of value to Albertans and planned for many years to donate his collections to a museum.

Archaeological Guides

Through time, Alva and Lawrence became recognized as experts on the Milk River area. Alva was the better-known as he had a natural gift for storytelling. Although Alva and Lawrence were not involved in starting Writing-on-Stone Provincial Park, they were avid explorers of the area and supporters of creating a park. With the designation of the Provincial Park in 1957 (due to the efforts of Lawrence's uncle, Leonard Halmrast, local MLA), Alva soon became known as a man who knew a lot about the area and he found himself guiding Government officials and other organized groups around the site. Alva continued acting as a guide until Park Ranger Scotty Shearer started giving tours in the early 1970s, leading to the eventual establishment of an Interpretive program at the park.

Lawrence often accompanied Alva when he guided people, particularly those who had knowledge of archaeology. Among the people Alva and Lawrence guided were Dr. Richard Forbis and amateur archaeologist Don King, both from Calgary. They came during the late 1950s to assess the rock art sites at Writing-on-Stone for the Glenbow Foundation. As a result of this assessment, the Glenbow commissioned Selwyn Dewdney, a well known Canadian rock art expert, to record the major petroglyph and pictograph sites in the park and at Verdigris Coulee. Alva and Lawrence spent many hours guiding Dewdney in 1960 and 1962, learning a lot in the process.

Work with the Archaeological Society of Alberta

Interest in archaeology was growing in Alberta during the early 1960s, though Lawrence and Alva were still really the only ones exploring the Milk River area. Things changed in 1964, when a group of people from Lethbridge formed the Lethbridge Chapter of the Archaeological Society of Alberta. The main instigator was Mrs. Villa-Jean Tyrrell, who had assistance from Dr. Lu Bayrock and Dr. Wallace Geiger, two geologists from the Alberta Research Council who had already formed a club in Edmonton.

Lawrence joined the Archaeological Society in 1966 and became involved in drafting the aims and objectives of the Archaeological Society of Alberta in 1968, when the group was incorporated under the Societies Act. The aims of the Archaeological Society were to promote interest in archaeology and related sciences in the province, to preserve archaeological sites in Alberta and to discourage collecting for financial gain. Society members worked to record, study and protect archaeological sites. They gave talks to the public, produced publications and encouraged people with artifacts to record them and make them available for study. They also provided assistance, leadership and advice in the proper methods of excavation and recording. This was at a time when excavating sites by amateurs was not prohibited.

Lawrence took all these aims to heart and was one of the most active members of the group in promoting them. He was President of the Society

from 1970 through 1972 and served as one of the directors of the Society for many years after that. He hosted many social events at his farm and set up displays for the public and conducted field trips.

Among the many friends Lawrence made during his association with the Society were: Jim Carpenter, a Lethbridge policeman who eventually became mayor of the city and his wife June; John Erickson, who later supervised the reconstruction of the Northwest Mounted Police Post at Writing-on-Stone Park; Mrs. Helen Schuler, after whom the Lethbridge Nature Centre is named; Dr. W. Cousins from the University of Lethbridge; Barney Reeves, a Ph.D. student in archaeology at the time; Ron Getty, later one of Dr. Reeves' graduate students who studied the Many Snakes Burial Site at Writing-on-Stone; Dr. Ruth Gruhn and Dr. Al Bryan, who were Anthropology professors at the University of Alberta; and Hope Johnson, Lawrence's mentor in palaeontology.

Lawrence not only gave a lot to the Society and its members, he learned a great deal from his association as well. Professional archaeologists gave talks, that Lawrence readily absorbed and the society facilitated access to the literature. Dr. Timothy Losey, consultant archaeologist from Edmonton, said that Lawrence was unique among most amateurs because he knew how to learn from the literature. A lot of other professionals never gave Lawrence credit for his knowledge because he had no degree or formal training.

Alva and Lawrence usually jointly guided any trips that the Archaeological Society of Alberta took to the Milk River area. One of Lawrence's goals was to map all the sites he knew before they were destroyed. He and Alva were field captains for the surveys of Balog, Hummel, Verdigris Lake, Del Bonita, Morton, Seebeck, Antelope Hill, Stevens Rock and Police Coulee sites and helped to excavate and record numerous other sites later published by the Archaeological Society. Lawrence also acted as field captain with George Reti for the Grassy Lake Site and did the firearms research for the report on the Last Indian Battle Site near Lethbridge.

Lawrence's youngest daughter, Gail, can remember the hours he devoted to the Lethbridge Archaeological Society. Lawrence attended most of the Saturday night meetings at the Community College in Lethbridge and seldom missed the field trips, taking Gail and his wife Jessie along with him much of the time. Lawrence arranged for Society members to visit both his home and Alva's to see the many treasures they had on display. He presented slide programs on the natural history of the Milk River and the Cypress Hills, on petroglyphs from Verdigris Coulee, on archaeological sites throughout southern Alberta and on the bullets and cartridges found at the Last Indian Battle Site.

In 1979, Lawrence was made Representative for the Lethbridge Centre on the Provincial Executive of the Archaeological Society of Alberta, a position that he held until his death. He attended numerous meetings all over the province in this capacity and seldom missed the annual conferences. He continued to present slide programs for the Lethbridge group over the next 12 years and expanded his repertoire to include presentations on canoe trips along the Milk River, fossil finds in Devil's Coulee, field trips to the Morton Site and excavations and Indian writings at Writing-on-Stone. Lawrence also participated in and loaned artifacts for various displays put on by the Society. Two of his last were the AADAC Teen Activity Fair in Lethbridge (1989), where he also set up a display of guns and the Stones and Bones Weekend at Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump (1990 and 1991), where he was in charge of the Archaeological Society of Alberta exhibit.

Lawrence also presented programs for the Annual Meetings of the Archaeological Society. One of his presentations was on the syllabics along the Milk River (1983), another on the pictographs and petroglyphs (1984). In 1987 he acted as the tour guide and presented the evening program for a joint meeting with the Saskatchewan Archaeological Society. One of his most enduring contributions was the donation of his photographs and his pictograph, petroglyph and site descriptions to the publication Story-on-Stone, which sold over 3000 copies after it was published by the Archaeological Society in 1980.

Lawrence's work to record all the native writings along the Milk River has produced the

only known photographs of some sites which are now gone due to vandalism or erosion. Other shots record the gradual erosion of writings, with many sites documented progressively from the 1950s to 1991. A unique "wheel of life" petroglyph from Writing-on-Stone Provincial Park represents one of only two petroglyphs found on top of a hoodoo. It was stolen by an unknown visitor just one year after Lawrence photographed it in 1984.

Of all the petroglyph and pictograph images in his photographic collection, the picture Lawrence cherished most was of a petroglyph panel at Verdigris Coulee. It contained what he felt was the most striking panel of petroglyphs along the Milk River; a skunk, sheep, deer and various men. Sadly, someone used a saw and attempted to cut the panel off the cliffs, permanently damaging the work. Lawrence's collection includes photographs of the damaged panel but, more importantly, he may well have taken the only photographs of the panel in its original state.

Among Lawrence's photographs are many other types of archaeological sites from the Milk River area and other parts of Alberta. These include stone circles and effigies, hearth sites, vision quest sites, buffalo jumps, artifacts (such as stone points and scrapers), archaeological digs and mapping projects in progress. Many of these photographs have been used in publications by the Archaeological Society of Alberta over the years.

Lawrence's interest in local history permeated his collection as well. Old coal mines, homestead sites and other sites of local historic interest were frequent photographic subjects. Within his collection, there are photographs of an old topographical survey marker, names of homesteaders, earlier ranchers and squatters from the 1890s and even a steer head insignia which may be the work of famous western painter, Charlie Russell, who worked as a cowboy in the area. Most of the signatures carved in the cliffs by the Northwest Mounted Police, who served at Writing-on-Stone Post from 1886 to 1918, were also photographed by Lawrence.

Lawrence's interest in archaeology went beyond simply finding artifacts and archaeological sites. He liked to learn about the cultures that produced them and how the artifacts were made and used. He once saw a flint-knapping demonstration and began to practise the technique using a deer antler for a tool on pieces of obsidian he found. Eventually both he and Alva became quite good at making simple arrowheads and scrapers. They could even fashion them from pop bottle glass. He and Alva demonstrated arrowhead making at Writing-on-Stone Park on a number of occasions and for other groups as well, including the Southern Alberta Rock Hounds. He tried making stone hammers, too. On one occasion we were talking about stone hammers and I happened to say that it must have taken days to make one. "Actually it's quite easy," Lawrence said. "I bet I can make one by the time you come back to the truck after arrowhead hunting." I didn't believe him but when I returned a half-hour later he had already made a groove more than half way around a nice-sized stone. He showed me how easily the quartz grains could be knocked out using another stone. The hardest part was dislodging the initial chips.

Syllabics

During his photographic forays in the 1970s, Lawrence made one of his most notable discoveries: the presence of a strange type of carving, appearing in sentence-like lines in several locations along the Milk River. Lawrence immediately recognized these carvings as unusual and not at all related to the traditional native petroglyphs. He began investigating the literature, eventually learning that they were syllabics, a form of writing developed for the Cree by Reverend James Evans in 1841 and later adapted for use with other indigenous languages.

In total, Lawrence discovered 13 panels of these syllabics along the Milk River with examples at Verdigris Coulee, Poverty Flats, Writing-on-Stone Provincial Park and the Penrose and Audet farms. Lawrence photographed each site carefully and collected as much information as possible on syllabics in an attempt to determine what the inscriptions meant and who wrote them. He enlisted the aid of Greg Ellis, City Archivist at the Galt Museum in Lethbridge, to contact experts who might know about syllabics. Gerald Hutchinson of Rundle House was able to verify that most of the symbols were from the Cree syllabic alphabet,

although there were several symbols from the Slavey syllabic. Hugh Dempsey of the Glenbow Museum determined that there were no Blackfoot syllabic symbols. Lawrence continued to search unsuccessfully until his death for someone to translate the Cree syllabics to English.

Lawrence did uncover a lot of information on syllabics even though he never felt he learned enough about them to publish his findings. His research led others to eventually seek him out as an "expert" on the subject, even some of the very people he and Greg Ellis wrote to when first looking for information. During 1987, a travelling Federal Government Museumobile display came to Milk River. Among the exhibits was a display on syllabics. Lawrence pointed out some mistakes in the syllabics and helped the people operating the caravan to fix them. In response, Lawrence received a letter from Ottawa thanking him for providing this information and correcting their display. The irony of Lawrence becoming the "expert" in syllabics was not lost on him. According to J. D. Higinbotham, who lived in the era in which syllabics were taught, the alphabet was so simple "an intelligent Cree (could) use it in reading after one week's study." Lawrence spent ten years studying syllabics and in his words, "I still don't understand all the symbols."

Lawrence's study of the syllabics along the Milk River produced a valuable record of these sites, as he is the only one known thus far to have photographed them all. Most of the sites are already badly eroded or damaged by graffiti and many will soon be permanently lost, making Lawrence's photographs the only permanent record.

Ogam

The cliffs along the Milk River hold other carvings besides syllabics and traditional petroglyphs and pictographs. One type in particular had always intrigued Lawrence and Alva. These were marks: straight lines carved into the cliffs, often at different angles. Many were very deeply incised and most occurred in clusters often up to five feet long. The marks were particularly abundant on the sandstone pillar at the mouth of Verdigris Coulee and on the cliffs on the opposite side of the river. The two explanations offered that they were tally marks or tool-sharpening grooves were never completely satisfying to Lawrence and Alva. They always believed they were something more important.

It was not until June 1, 1983 that an alternative suggestion was offered to Lawrence and Alva. That year Warren Dexter, a member of the Epigraphic Society of America, contacted Alva and asked to be taken to see the Indian writings outside Writing-on-Stone Provincial Park. Mr. Dexter showed Lawrence and Alva drawings of some of the Milk River petroglyphs contained in Dr. Barry Fell's book, Bronze Age America. Fell contended that these petroglyphs were actually drawings of ancient Celtic and Norse gods and contained messages written in Ogam Consaine or Tifinag, two ancient written languages. This suggestion fired their imaginations and, from that time onward, both men became quite interested in learning more about Ogam.

The next day Lawrence and Alva's son, Ron Bair, took Warren to Verdigris Coulee to show him the curious markings they had found. According to Lawrence, Dexter was like "a little kid with a new toy." He was very excited by what he saw and took many photographs, including an overlapping sequence, which contained all of the markings on the tall hoodoo, which Alva now calls the Ogam Pillar.

Warren Dexter was the first of nearly a dozen Ogam researchers Alva and Lawrence eventually met, as more disciples of Fell's came to see the area, bearing the telltale book. Lawrence spent many hours guiding them to the best sites and discussing their theories with them. He corresponded with Warren throughout these years and also contacted the Epigraphic Society of America to obtain copies of their articles related to the subject. In 1984, Dexter published a small booklet, entitled Ogam Consaine and Tifinag Alphabets, Ancient Uses, which contained information on the Ogam Pillar and a translation of the messages on it by Dr. Barry Fell. The cover photograph shows Ron Bair and Lawrence beside the pillar. Dr. Fell published an article that same year entitled Celtic Augurs and Canada Geese based upon the markings on the Ogam Pillar taken from photographs and information given to him by

Warren Dexter. In the paper, Fell says the writing is Ogam Consaine and that the pillar was a kind of Druid observatory where flights of birds were observed in order to determine the omens for the future. "The priest faced the east...the omens of good fortune must appear before the priest, in this case flights of geese and the ill omens were the geese that appeared behind the priest." Fell translated the Ogam on the northwest, west and southwest faces of the pillar to say "diseases, times of flood, omens of disaster, death in battle, withering of the corn cobs and prairie". On the southeast, east and northeast faces he translated "birds bring good luck, eastern quarter, here is good luck, the secret writings interpret the auguries of the geese, from the gaggle (Chevron), its when, its whence and its whither."

Although Barry Fell's ideas and translations are not widely accepted, research continues in this vein, although the frequency of visitors to Writing-on-Stone who are interested in Ogam has declined. Alva and Lawrence incorporated the knowledge they gained about Ogam into the talks they gave, but always allowed people to make up their own minds about it. Both recognized the possibilities of misinterpretations of the scripts and were aware of certain liberties Fell seemed to take in his redrawing of the original petroglyphs. They also were cognizant of the debate about Fell's general hypothesis about Ogam. When asked if he thought the lines on the Ogam Pillar were genuine, Lawrence said "Well, let's put it this way. I think they are something. I'm fairly sure (it is Ogam), 99%... There's messages there laid out just as perfect as could be...There's a possibility of tally marks, but very remote." The whole subject was of tremendous interest to him and he had a briefcase full of articles, photographs and correspondence about Ogam, but Lawrence never purported to understand all of what Fell wrote in his books.

Teacher and Conservationist

Lawrence's interests did not just centre around work with the Archaeological Society. He was an active member of the Lethbridge branch of the Historical Society of Alberta and was also involved in producing local histories, particularly the Warner Historical Society's publication, Wagons to Wings. To his very last days, Lawrence never lost his enthusiasm for learning. As he once said, "The more you do, the more you learn and the more you want to learn."

As Dr. James Tagg said when he presented Lawrence with his honourary doctorate in 1991, "Lawrence Halmrast's many years of study stem from a desire to extend his knowledge and understanding and the determination to pass that knowledge on to others. His true avocation - the one for which he is being honoured here today - has been the inspiration of others." After spending many of his early years with no one to learn from, Lawrence did not want others to experience the same situation, so he made his time and expertise readily available to anyone.

Lawrence continued his interest in Writing-on-Stone Park through the 1980s and became an important resource for park staff. After his illness in 1982, Lawrence spent increasingly more time at the park and from 1985 onwards, he regularly visited the park on a weekly basis. He worked to complete his photographic record of all the native writings, helped out with projects like refurnishing the reconstructed Northwest Mounted Police Post, formed friendships with archaeologists like Dr. Martin Magne and other scientists who visited the site, answered questions from the park staff about the area and helped in their training. Bob Ward, Ranger-in-Charge, cites Lawrence as one of the park's greatest assets and in thinking about the one question Lawrence was asked the most, concluded it was, "What's this, Lawrence?" What Bob found most amazing was that Lawrence generally had the answer. After a day with Lawrence as part of the park's training program, one of the Interpreters said, "I've never had such an education overload in one day in my life." According to Bob, "It takes somebody that knows a lot about it to really impress upon others what is really out there. Most people walk through the coulees and they see just sandstone rock. It looks nice but when you really start getting involved in it and knowing what is there and how it was formed, that is what makes it interesting." Bob himself is a testament to this. When first posted to Writing-on-Stone he saw only treeless prairies and desolation and was sure he would stay for only a year. After a short time with Lawrence and Alva he fell in love with the area and now, more than ten years later, he and his wife do not wish to leave.

Over the years Lawrence met many native elders who visited Writing-on-Stone. He was very interested in their interpretation of the writings but eventually reached the conclusion that none of them could interpret the writings any better than he could. "Everyone had his own interpretation for the same writing." Lawrence believed that each person's theory "was as good as mine or anybody else's. The only guy that knows (what a certain petroglyph means) is the guy that put it there. I can interpret it one way, you can interpret it another way. Everybody is doing what he really believes."

The most interesting experience Lawrence had with a native elder was in 1987 when Joe Crowshoe from Brocket, came to the park to leave a friendship offering among the cliffs where most of the writings are. A sweat lodge was built for the purification ceremony and prayers were offered as he constructed a special bundle at the base of the cliffs. Finally he had a young man place the bundle midway up the cliff, leaving it for the spirits. Lawrence and several park staff were invited to attend the ceremony. It made a lasting impression on them.

Lawrence often acted as guide for special visitors to Writing-on-Stone during the off season or at special events. Mary Lemessurier, Minister of Alberta Culture, toured the site with him on her visit in the early 1980s and Lawrence and Alva set up a horseback tour and barbecue for Steve West, Minister of Parks and a number of deputy ministers when the park acquired new land south of the river. Lawrence also met and sometimes aided, actors and producers making films at or about the park. Lawrence recalled meeting actor, Leslie Neilson, when he came to do the film on Writing-on-Stone Park in 1990. "He's a real nice guy. We spent a lot of time with him." Lawrence showed Mr. Neilson and the producer various writings and talked about their significance.

Two things Lawrence felt very strongly about and lobbied for throughout the 1980s were an Interpretive Centre at Writing-on-Stone Provincial Park and greater protection for archaeological and historic sites along the Milk River. Both Lawrence and Alva believed the initial establishment of an Archaeological Preserve in the late 1970s was important in showing the significance of Writing-on-Stone to the public, particularly the local people. They were two of the main local supporters of this move. According to Alva, "As soon as the area was made off limits, people started to think that maybe there was some value there. There has been a remarkable change in people's values in the last twenty years."

Lawrence and Alva, however, looked beyond the boundaries of the little two square-mile park, to the many still unprotected sites in Police and Van Cleve coulees. When Alberta Parks and Recreation was negotiating to acquire more land in the 1970s, Lawrence and Alva were strongly in favour of it, but, because of local opposition to the park "grabbing land", they kept their opinions to themselves. They had the patience to wait for another time, when residents would feel more favourable toward expansion and they worked quietly for over ten years to create such a climate.

Figure 10 Lawrence Halmrast tutoring actor Leslie Neilson at Writing-on-Stone Provincial Park.

In 1986-87, when the Provincial Parks Department decided to direct some energy and money into upgrading Writing-on-Stone, Alva took this opportunity to express their concerns to the Department. The work they had done behind the scenes produced a lot of local support for enhancement of Writing-on-Stone; so, for the first time, Alva and Lawrence spoke up politically. Alva

initiated and chaired a special committee of the Milk River and District Chamber of Commerce concerned with the development of Writing-on-Stone Park. Lawrence and Gordon Rolfe, the secretary-treasurer of the Chamber of Commerce, were the other committee members. They drafted a two-page letter to Norman Weiss, Minister of Recreation and Parks, detailing their concerns and vision for the future development of the park. Copies were sent to the Ministers of Tourism and Culture, to Bob Bogle, the local MLA and to the Regional Director of Parks in Vulcan. The letter stated the park boundaries should be expanded to include all areas and sites of historical interest and value; that the park sell its lands not required for preservation (adjacent farmlands); that an Administration Building be built that would include administration and maintenance, a naturalist's office, interpretive centre and small theatre and that a large group shelter be built for community gatherings. In the letter they detailed the popularity of the park; the need for more campsites; the need for more room for day users and the inadequacy of the existing park buildings.

The letter met with a favourable response. The upgrading plan was expanded to include an Administrative/Interpretive Centre. (I was hired to write the text for the interpretive displays and locate the required artifacts and photographs. Alva, Lawrence and Bob Ward put me in touch with local people who wanted to donate objects to the park.) Everyone was very excited that the park was going to have an Interpretive Centre, but, unfortunately, it was not to be. Subsequent to the provincial election the project was revisited and the Interpretive Centre was deleted from the plans. A new maintenance facility and the community picnic shelter were constructed and some new outdoor interpretive signs added, but the Interpretive Centre was lost. To his death, the Interpretive Centre remained a facility Lawrence believed was greatly needed to properly interpret Writing-on-Stone and the Milk River country.

Negotiations to acquire additional coulees and historical sites began about the same time as the upgrade in the facilities. Lawrence and Alva supported the acquisitions because they had long wanted to see these additional areas protected. They kept their knowledge of the negotiations secret, however, concerned that the residents of the area should react negatively as they had in the 1970s. It was then that the quiet background work the two men had done proved its worth. This time Parks met with far less resistance because so many more people had come to realize the importance of the area. Lawrence and Alva were very pleased when Writing-on-Stone Park was officially expanded to include most of the sensitive coulee areas on September 20, 1991. Bob Ward credits Lawrence and Alva with changing a lot of people's opinions and convincing them of the value of the area. Their years acting as ambassadors for the Milk River area and the park had paid off.

Lawrence's involvement with Writing-on-Stone continued to the very end of his life. He continued to talk about the need for an Interpretive Centre and, in donating his collections to the Provincial Museum, made a caveat that appropriate artifacts be loaned to Writing-on-Stone Park if such a centre is ever built.

One thing that caused great concern to Lawrence, and something that he was never able to accomplish, was to convince others of the need to protect the Ogam Pillar and related sites from erosion and undercutting by the Milk River. The best Lawrence could do was to document these sites in photographs against the inevitable day when they would be lost forever. Over the course of 40 years, Lawrence saw 13 sites destroyed; three by vandalism and nine due to natural causes. Others, like the Ogam Pillar, are not likely to survive the decade.

AMATEUR PALAEONTOLOGIST PAR EXCELLENCE

The Milk River area contains abundant fossils from the Cretaceous Period. Although the first dinosaur skeleton ever recovered in Alberta came from the Milk River, the area was subsequently overshadowed by the greater abundance of fossils along the Red Deer River. Few Albertans recognized the richness of the fossil deposits in Milk River country until the discovery of a hadrosaur nest site at Devil's Coulee in 1987, few Albertans, that is, except Lawrence Halmrast and Alva Bair.

As they explored the Milk River valley, Lawrence and Alva were struck by the wealth of fossils they discovered and worked hard to draw the attention of professional palaeontologists. Lawrence became absorbed by palaeontology, spending hours searching for dinosaurs and other fossils and preserving them in his collections. He became a local expert on fossils and gave many presentations throughout the Milk River region. Eventually, after the discovery of the hadrosaur nests at Devil's Coulee, Lawrence became an important local contact for the Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology and showed its staff his many discovery sites. Although an amateur, Lawrence contributed a great deal to our knowledge of the fossil history of the Milk River area.

Learning about Palaeontology

Learning about palaeontology was a gradual process for Lawrence, starting with the discoveries he made as a child. As with all his other hobbies much of what he learned he taught himself by consulting books and other people. His enthusiasm kept him searching for fossils throughout his life, allowing him to add continually to his store of knowledge.

Lawrence felt he never completed his palaeontological education. He was always ready to read the latest book, or to listen to an expert. Never afraid to ask questions, Lawrence would seek out professional palaeontologists when he could not identify a specimen. "Anything I can't identify I take to someone who knows more than I do. If they don't know, they take it to someone else until an answer is found. Someone is bound to know, eventually."

The expert Lawrence relied on most through the 1960s and 1970s was Hope Johnson. Johnson, herself an amateur palaeontologist, had explored the southeastern portion of Alberta extensively in search of microfossils. She was employed as Curator at Dinosaur Provincial Park in its early years and was also affiliated with the Medicine Hat Museum, co-operating with field parties from many noted Canadian museums. In conjunction with Dr. John Storer, Curator of Palaeontology at the Provincial Museum of Alberta in the 1970s, Hope illustrated the first field guide to Alberta fossils entitled *A Guide to Alberta Vertebrate Fossils from the Age of Dinosaurs* published in 1974.

Although Hope could not remember when she first met Lawrence, it was sometime in the early 1960s that Lawrence began to write to her, seeking information. The correspondence began a friendship that lasted the rest of Lawrence's life. Whenever Lawrence found something he could not identify, he would send it to Hope and she would tell him what she could about it, often sending several pages of information with numerous highly detailed original illustrations and captions. She often enclosed pamphlets or suggested books for Lawrence and Alva to read. When *A Guide to Alberta Vertebrate Fossils* was published, it immediately became Lawrence's "fossil bible". Dog-eared and full of his own notes, as well as Hope's, he used the book for the rest of his life.

Collecting and Displaying Fossils

Lawrence loved spending time wandering the badlands, searching for fossils. When he located something such as a large bone, his face would break out in a delighted smile. Lawrence had his own technique to collect and preserve the miscellaneous fossils he found. He would simply pick up the fragments, so weatherworn and ancient they would break into chunks at his touch and place all the pieces unceremoniously into a large brown paper bag from which no one could believe anything but rubble would emerge. But there was care beneath that jumble - not a piece of the original bone would be missing and Lawrence could retain a mental image of the original fossil for months.

At home, Lawrence would spread the contents of his paper bag on the kitchen table and commence piecing the bone back together. Patiently he would glue piece after piece until even the smallest fragment was back in place and the bone looked like it had never been disturbed. Lawrence also had the patience to wait for nature to uncover any missing pieces. Often he would return to a discovery site weeks, months or even years later looking for missing pieces of a tooth or bone and add them to the original piece at home. Yet this was a man who hated doing jigsaw puzzles!

When asked about his most exciting fossil find, Lawrence's first response was, "Every one is exciting." And to Lawrence they were. Nothing could light up his eyes faster than finding a fossil. He admitted, however, that what he enjoyed most was finding unusual fossils, like the bones of a ceratopsian dinosaur that he discovered at the Ridge Reservoir. Another find he was proud of was a natural cast of a crayfish inside a nodule which Lawrence split in half, revealing both the top and bottom of the animal imprinted on the inside. In total, Lawrence discovered 11 different types of prehistoric animals in the Milk River area, as well as a variety of leaf fossils and petrified wood. Most of the animals were dinosaurs, the majority hadrosaurs (duck-billed dinosaurs) that lived in abundance during the late Cretaceous Period. Lawrence also discovered turtle and crocodile fossils, ammonites and bacculites and even mosasaur bones from the marine and deltaic sediments exposed along the lower Milk River and Lost River areas.

Displaying his fossils was another of Lawrence's loves. His workshop was also a display centre and the small back bedroom in his house was his exhibition room. Here he had many more fossils mounted on the walls and in display cases, along with a large rock collection. Posters of dinosaurs hung nearby for Lawrence to refer to when telling people which animal each bone came from. He had a characteristic style in mounting dinosaur bones for display. He cemented the fossil to a piece of 3/4 inch plywood painted grey and cut into the shape of the bone. Each bone was then coated in resin. Other fossils were cut on the diamond saw and embedded in resin.

Lawrence used his mounted fossils to create large displays at various gun, rock and craft shows. Loading the Suburban truck until the springs sagged, he would set off for Calgary, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, or Saskatchewan. Over the years, Lawrence presented numerous programs on dinosaurs and palaeontology in libraries, schools and community halls across southern Alberta. The fossils made his talks memorable and there was always a crowd gathered around touching them and asking questions.

My husband once overheard a person ask Lawrence how the ammonites had managed to swim if they were so heavy, not realizing the heaviness resulted from fossilization. A patient and understanding man, Lawrence quietly explained what the animal was like in life and how the process of fossilization had turned it to stone. It was also interesting watching him talk to people whose religious beliefs said the earth was only thousands of years old. Although they often struggled with how dinosaurs fit into this scheme, Lawrence did not try to dissuade them from their beliefs. Though his beliefs had changed as an adult, he had come from a similar background and understood, preferring to let them draw their own conclusions.

One of the things Lawrence enjoyed the most was helping other people discover fossils for themselves. His eyes would twinkle as he showed someone how to search for fossils and watched the excitement in their faces when they found their first one. Although he took only his most trusted friends to his best fossil sites, Lawrence shared others with everyone. He made fossil finding seem easy and never let on that he was any more gifted than anyone else. Lawrence believed that anyone could learn the art if they were taught what to look for. He told one reporter that knowing the difference between an ordinary rock and a fossil "comes much the same way a dog-lover can look at a dog and tell right away what breed it is. It is some little thing about the bone that sets it off," he explained. "You can tell what it is just by picking it up and looking at it. For example, the muscle ridges in the bones of fast runners are in different places from those of meat-eaters."

Lawrence's talent for identifying fossils did not go unnoticed. One day each year, the Helen Schuler Coulee Centre would bring in experts to identify rocks or fossils for the public. Lawrence was always invited and over the years was never stumped. At every gun show and fair he visited, people were always bringing fossils to be identified, as did his many friends and neighbours. Lawrence had so many fossils in his home that at Halloween he and Marjorie would set out a bowl full of miscellaneous fragments for the kids. When asked if they wanted candy or dinosaur bones, the reply was invariably the same, as the little hands eagerly dipped into the bowl of bones and the squeals of delight rang out. His love of giving fossils to people eventually led Lawrence to experiment and develop his own

technique for casting fossils so that he would have more to give away.

Professional Ties and Memorable Discoveries

Lawrence had little association with professional palaeontologists until the construction of the Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology in Drumheller. It was not long after the Museum opened in 1985 that Lawrence first sought out the museum palaeontologists, notably Dr. Phil Currie, to help identify some of his rarer fossils. Dr. Currie was perhaps the first professional palaeontologist to recognize and acknowledge Lawrence's well developed fossil identification skills. In discussing Lawrence's knowledge, Dr. Currie said, "Lawrence was very good at identification. Most of the bones he found, he identified correctly himself. Lawrence knew a lot, not about the particular animals perhaps, as much as about the sites...and where to find the best materials."

It was the discovery of the hadrosaur nest site at Devil's Coulee in 1987 that led to a lasting bond between Lawrence and the Royal Tyrrell Museum. After the discovery of a hadrosaur nest site in nearby Montana, the Royal Tyrrell Museum sent a field party to the geologically similar Milk River Ridge, just west of Warner, in 1986 to search for potential nest sites. Unsuccessful the first year, the museum made preparations to search again in the spring of 1987. On May 24, not many days before the crew was to set out for the Ridge, 19-year-old Wendy Sloboda, a Warner resident and amateur palaeontologist tutored by Lawrence, discovered some small fossil fragments on the Ridge. She thought they were fossilized eggshells and sent them to Dr. Len Hills, her Geology professor at the University of Calgary. Dr. Hills confirmed Wendy's suspicions and notified Dr. Phil Currie. Within days, Phil and his already prepared crew, met Wendy and she took them to the site. They found lots of eggshells but no nests. The crew of five, now including Wendy, spent the next three weeks intensively searching the area to no avail. They were on the last day of their search when, while sitting down for a moment's rest, technician Kevin Aulenback finally discovered a nest site, complete with bits of eggshell and part of an egg with ribs sticking out of it. It was an outstanding discovery and was soon all over the news. To preserve the site until it could be properly surveyed and the land acquired for excavation purposes, anyone who knew about the search and the location was sworn to secrecy.

Lawrence knew about Wendy's initial discovery, the search and the amazing find at Devil's Coulee, but he kept it secret. As the Museum staff began negotiating for land access, Lawrence helped them identify the area residents they needed to talk to. Always an educator, Lawrence spoke to people in the community about the importance of the discovery and the need to keep its location secret and protected and worked to build trust toward the Museum staff. According to Dr. Bruce Naylor, Director of the Royal Tyrrell Museum, Lawrence's most important contribution to this discovery was "the intangible benefit the Museum found by having a friendly person in the community to act as a door-opener."

With excavations in progress at the Devil's Coulee site, Lawrence took advantage of the opportunity to spend time with the palaeontologists, frequently visiting the site and assisting in the excavation. Lawrence soon became known as an important local contact regarding fossil localities in southern Alberta and was a key figure in several additional discoveries. He gave Dr. Currie information on all the places he had collected fossils over the years and identified those sites he felt the palaeontologists should investigate further. According to Dr. Currie, fully half of the sites found in the Milk River after the discovery at Devil's Coulee were attributable to Lawrence.

There was only one interesting site, which Lawrence had collected at, that he did not tell others about. In 1960, while hunting at Devil's Coulee, Lawrence went to retrieve a downed partridge, which had fallen into the coulee. When he walked over the valley edge, he discovered instead a dinosaur bone about 18 inches long. Searching about, he found some other fossils in the area as well, including some small fragments, that he placed in a tobacco tin and took home. When Wendy and the Tyrrell Museum crew discovered the nests at Devil's Coulee in 1987, Lawrence remembered his little tobacco box and re-examined its contents. There, among the other microfossils,

he found dinosaur eggshells. He had not recognized them for what they were at the time and, some 27 years later, he preferred not to tell the tale to any but his closest friends, not wishing in any way to detract from the spotlight focussed on Wendy for her discovery.

Maintaining the secrecy of the Devil's Coulee nest site was a difficult task, as public interest grew steadily. To satisfy public demand, the Royal Tyrrell Museum held a huge Open House at Devil's Coulee in 1988 that was attended by over 800 people. Lawrence volunteered to set up a fossil display at the site and both he and Marjorie talked to hundreds of people that day about dinosaurs in southern Alberta. Lawrence also led a number of tours to the nest site, loving every minute of the excitement.

Lawrence's discoveries at the Ridge Reservoir became more significant after the discoveries at Devil's Coulee, since the bones from the reservoir were from adult hadrosaurs. The reservoir site turned out to be in a slightly different stratigraphic horizon than the Devil's Coulee site, so it cannot be stated with certainty that the Hadrosaur species at the two sites are the same. Given the geographical proximity of the two localities, the Tyrrell Museum approached Lawrence about loaning some of the adult hadrosaur bones from the Ridge to include in an exhibit of the nest site. Lawrence was delighted and eventually made a permanent donation of the fossils, that were placed on display at the entrance to the museum's main galleries.

Lawrence took many photographs of the bones and eggshells found at Devil's Coulee. Using these and photographs of his own fossil finds, he created a slide-tape program about Devil's Coulee and other palaeontological sites in the Milk River region. Lawrence showed the program to numerous groups throughout southern Alberta and he often incorporated it into his fossil displays at various gun and rock shows.

In May 1988, the year after the discovery at Devil's Coulee, Lawrence made his most significant palaeontological discovery. Due to repairs on the headgates of the Milk River Ridge Reservoir, the lake was drained, exposing areas of lakebed Lawrence had never had the chance to explore before. It was a great opportunity and Lawrence and Marjorie spent many days exploring the site. One day, while walking along the shore, Lawrence discovered some articulated duck-billed dinosaur bones. With his experienced eye he could tell they indicated a possible fully articulated skeleton, a rare prize in the Milk River area and possibly an important link in determining which species of hadrosaur had used the nest sites. Lawrence immediately told Phil Currie, who decided it was worth excavating and sent a crew out quickly due to the urgency of removing the bones before the reservoir was refilled. News of a dinosaur find so near to Devil's Coulee excited the media again and Lawrence was quoted as saying "It appears to be a major find. I wouldn't say it's a complete skeleton, but we've found three major leg bones, a hipbone and scapula. I don't know how much more is there. You don't know until you get it all dug." Lawrence said he had "been collecting fossils for about 30 years, ever since I knew what a fossil was, but this one is the most interesting to date....usually I would find only two or three bones. This appears to be the most complete."

Lawrence and Marjorie spent most of that summer assisting with the excavation at the Ridge Reservoir site, visiting nearly every day and helping with exposing, jacketing and removing the fossils. Lawrence loved the work. When the site was officially named the Halmrast site and identified with a marker bearing the initials of those who excavated it, Lawrence was very proud.

One day while working at the Halmrast site, Wendy Sloboda uncovered a piece of jawbone, indicating there might be a skull with the bones. No adult skulls had been discovered yet at Devil's Coulee, so it was an exciting find. When Lawrence and Marjorie left the site earlier that day, Marjorie remembers Lawrence saying he was feeling tired and would not be back the next day. After hearing about the discovery of the jaw bone fragment, however, Lawrence was the first one to appear at the site the next morning. Unfortunately, a sudden change of events prevented them from ever finding the rest of the skull or finishing the excavation.

It was the end of July when Wendy found the jawbone and there were only five bones left to remove from the excavation. The palaeontologist-in-charge had decided to leave the remaining bones

in the ground as part of the events during the Devil's Coulee Open House the next day. That night the crew went home convinced they would soon have all the bones retrieved, but, when they met Lawrence at the site the next morning, they found the water level had been restored overnight, flooding it all. The five remaining bones are still on the bottom of the reservoir, waiting for the water level to be lowered once again. Lawrence always wanted to recover those bones and kept an eye on the water level until he was too sick to go out anymore. "Someday we'll get them," he would say. "It just takes patience." Museum staff intend to keep checking the site, in the hopes of retrieving more material; it is possible the Halmrast site is actually a bone bed rather than a single specimen.

Between 1987 and 1992, Lawrence donated a number of fossils to the Royal Tyrrell Museum. As Dr. Phil Currie remarked, Lawrence was always "bringing things in for him to identify when he was in the Drumheller area. He would donate the fossils if they were of scientific relevance." Lawrence also assisted Museum staff on several field projects, including work in the One Four area and in Caleb Coulee. During the development of the Travel Alberta Centre at Milk River, Lawrence was involved in developing the Royal Tyrrell Museum's display, that contained many fossils he donated. He and Marjorie spent many hours working as volunteers at the Travel Centre and Lawrence donated additional material to the Centre for an auxiliary fossil display.

When the Friends of the Royal Tyrrell Museum Society was formed, Lawrence was invited to become a Board member. Lawrence accepted the position readily, considering it an honour and for the next two years he commuted between Warner and Drumheller, attending meetings for the Society, before he finally admitted it was too much driving.

Lawrence's involvement with the Tyrrell Museum did not cease, however. In 1991, Lawrence was asked to become a Palaeo Trustee for the Milk River country. The Palaeo Trustee program was a volunteer network developed to assist the Museum in determining which fossil discoveries reported by the public were worthy of further investigation. Being chosen was a testimony to Lawrence's palaeontological knowledge and identification abilities, for the Museum only chose people they could trust to be accurate in reporting exactly what the find was and the value of it. Lawrence was extremely pleased. He was looking forward to a summer out investigating new sites in 1992 but sadly, was not able to do so. He died with many sites yet to discover.

For most of Lawrence's adult life it was his collection of Civil War firearms which first drew people to him. It was as though the name Lawrence Halmrast could not be said without adding "he's the one with the incredible gun collection." Nearly every newspaper article about Lawrence mentioned his gun collection and many carried a picture of the guns adorning the walls in his den.

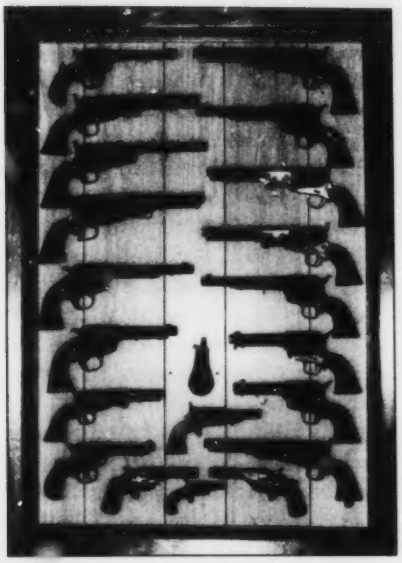

Figure 11 A display frame in Lawrence's den containing mostly Colt percussion and cartridge revolvers. The percussion revolvers and cavalry carbines are now in the Provincial Museum of Alberta.

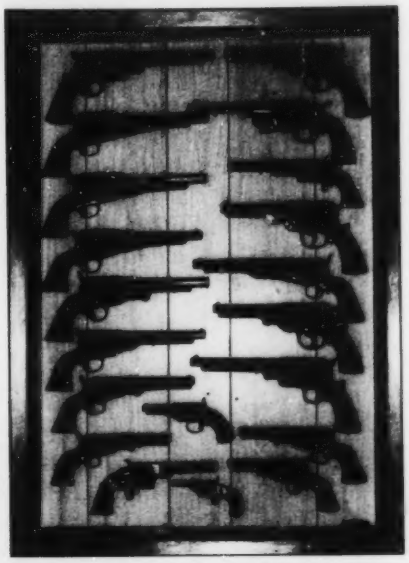

Figure 12 Lawrence's collection of Civil War era percussion revolvers and three early cartridge revolvers.

Development of the Collection

Lawrence started to collect guns in earnest in the late 1940s. He began with one cabinet containing 12 long guns, a few miscellaneous revolvers and other related items. At first Lawrence collected almost anything from the homestead and earlier eras in Alberta, but he soon refined his eclectic tastes and began to collect with a specific intent.

It was his fascination for archaeology and his interest in the Indian battles, that had taken place in southern Alberta, that initially provided the direction for Lawrence's collecting. From the lead bullets and cartridge cases he found at old battle sites, it was possible to determine the types of weapons that had been used by the Indians. Lawrence wanted to see what those weapons looked like, so he set out to collect one example of each type. By the time he had accomplished his goal, Lawrence was surprised to find that most of these guns had originally been manufactured for use in the American Civil War (1861 - 1865). This aroused his curiosity and he began to investigate how they had come to southern Alberta, far from the Civil War battlefields.

Prior to the Treaty of 1887, members of the Blackfoot Confederacy roamed freely throughout an area extending from central Alberta into central Montana. Members of the Confederacy, particularly the South Peigan, often came into contact with American traders. The Americans were after buffalo robes and guns were an important item of trade. By the 1830s, trading forts had been established along the Missouri and Marias rivers, including the famous Fort Benton. In 1869, two American traders, John J. Healy and Alfred B. Hamilton, spearheaded the movement of the American free traders into southern Alberta. Whiskey forts such as Slideout, Standoff, Robbers Roost and the largest, Fort Whoop-Up, soon sprang up.

When the American Civil War ended in 1865, there was a sudden surplus of arms, that the government sold to American settlers, gun dealers and traders. According to Lawrence, "the guns Indians used against Custer at Little Bighorn were pretty well all Civil War surplus." American traders

and gun runners travelling up the Missouri River to Fort Benton and into southern Alberta, brought war surplus guns into the area and traded them to the South Peigan and other members of the Blackfoot Confederacy. Records of the last Indian Battle in Alberta relate that "the South Peigans... were well armed with repeating rifles" when they met their enemies, the Crees and Assiniboines, near Lethbridge in 1870. The Crees and Assiniboines, on the other hand ..."had only old muskets, Hudson Bay fukes and bows and arrows". This was because the South Peigans traded with the Americans while the Crees traded primarily with the Hudson's Bay Company, who traded only single shot muskets.

Artifacts found at the battle site by the Lethbridge Chapter of the Archaeological Society of Alberta included lead and iron balls and shells and cases from a variety of firearms. Lawrence's collection included one of each type of gun used; the Spencer 56-56 Carbine, the .44 calibre Henry Rifle, the Model 1866 Winchester Carbine; the .44 calibre 1863 Starr cap and ball revolver; muskets; and the .36 calibre 1851 Navy Colt Revolver. With the exception of the 1866 Winchester carbine, all the other guns and revolvers were makes that were used during the Civil War. The 56-56 Spencer was the principal rifle used during the Civil War and the Navy Colt one of the most popular side arms. Both the Henry and the Model 1866 Winchester were in great demand by the Indians after the war, not only because they could fire fifteen shots in rapid succession, but also they highly prized them for their bright and colourful brass receivers.

Although he had the types of guns used in the Indian battles in his collection, Lawrence could not prove that any of the guns he owned were actually used in these battles. Only one gun, a Canadian Snider Carbine, had brass tacks on the stock, a feature Indians often added for decoration. According to Ron Serbin, a well known gun dealer and friend of Lawrence, the tacks were not laid out in a typical Indian decorative pattern. Lawrence's collection also included "guns like Custer used," but none that Lawrence could authentically say were used by Custer or his men. Lawrence was satisfied just to have examples of the types of guns.

Realizing that almost 90% of the guns he had collected had come from the Civil War, Lawrence became dedicated to acquiring other guns from that era. He began this task around 1952, starting with a small collection of approximately 50 guns. Although Lawrence began by collecting any type and model of gun from that period, both from the Union and the Confederacy, he soon settled on Union guns and only certain types. "It was far too

Figure 13 Several of Lawrence's trophies with American Civil War carbines displayed in his den.

expensive to collect everything and it would have taken a warehouse to store all the guns," Lawrence told one reporter.

People in southern Alberta who heard that Lawrence was interested in collecting guns would often give or sell him old ones they had. Many of these guns were from the Civil War. They were the cheapest guns to buy in western Canada and the United States during the homestead era. Having long ago lost their usefulness, or been replaced by newer guns, people gladly gave them up. Lawrence would sell those guns, that he did not need for his collection or trade them for guns he wanted. He had a natural aptitude for making deals. He once sold his 14 year old son Dale, a .243 calibre rifle worth $125.00 that, through wheeling, dealing and about 8 trades, had actually cost him about $8.00. Lawrence eventually traded a small collection of Winchesters he had developed as well, to obtain more Civil War guns. By 1959, he had acquired a total of 150 guns.

All of Lawrence's guns were in working order, despite the varied states of disrepair they were in when he got them. Lawrence cleaned, repaired and restored most of his guns himself. His son-in-law, Jim Sawatzky, recalls that often during their visits he would find Lawrence "sitting there filing on a gun stock with a whole circle of filings and stuff around him." He often did similar work for friends and was quite skilled at it. When the damage was more than he could repair, Lawrence would send the guns to someone more experienced. One fellow he often used was Dale Friesen of Piapot, Saskatchewan. Mr. Friesen's workmanship was so good it was difficult for an inexperienced observer to tell which guns in Lawrence's collection had new stocks and which ones still had their original stocks. Lawrence was always careful to keep the restorations looking as authentic as possible.

The guns in Lawrence's collection were in good enough condition after restoration to be fired, although Lawrence never did. As he explained, "A lot wouldn't be safe to shoot with modern powders to start with. For a gun collector to fire his weapons is like a stamp collector putting his stamps on a letter and mailing it, or a coin collector spending his coins to see how it's done."

Figure 14 Part of Lawrence's firearm collection dominated by his interest in American Civil War carbines.

Lawrence estimated that he obtained seventy-five per cent of his guns in Canada. He did this largely through contacts he made at gun shows, as well as through his involvement with the Alberta Arms and Cartridge Collectors Association (A.A.C.C.A.), that was formed in 1961. Lawrence was one of the first members of the Association and helped start the Lethbridge Chapter in 1964. He was already an experienced exhibitor by then, making his knowledge invaluable to the Association, which was composed primarily of novice collectors. When the Lethbridge Association presented their first gun show in 1965, Lawrence's Civil War gun display won First Place for Best General Collection. The public also voted it the display with the most appeal. Throughout the 1960s and 1970s, Lawrence continued to exhibit at the Lethbridge show, attracting collectors from the United States and Canada. Lawrence was president of the Lethbridge Branch of the A.A.C.C.A. for several years in the late 1960s and always

maintained his membership. In 1986 he was awarded a 25-year certificate from the Association.

Lawrence travelled widely to other gun shows as well, displaying his Civil War guns, Colt Revolving Rifles and Manhattan pistols. He was a member of the Saskatchewan Gun Collectors Association and the Montana Arms Collectors Association and exhibited in many of their shows. Everywhere Lawrence exhibited, his collection was commented on and written up in the local newspapers. Lawrence won many trophies and awards, including Best American Historical Arms, Best Colt Piece, Best Percussion Rifle, Best General Long Arms, Best Specialized Arms Display, Best General Display and Best in Show. A list of his awards is contained in Appendix 3.

Lawrence also sought out guns from sources other than shows. In 1960, Rex Johnson opened the Alberta Gun Craft shop in Lethbridge. Lawrence quickly became their best customer. On any trip to town, the gun shop was the first place Lawrence stopped, enquiring about what new guns had arrived. Rex gave Lawrence first access to any new guns. In turn, Lawrence helped Rex identify and price all the historic guns he acquired. Just by looking at the serial number of a gun, Lawrence could tell Rex where it had been manufactured, during what year and how many were made of that type. His memory for details was remarkable. Lawrence knew almost all the serial numbers of his own guns by heart as well.

Lawrence was so familiar with bullets and the rifling marks they developed when fired, that he could identify the type of gun a bullet had come from almost before you could ask him the question. He was an invaluable aid to the Archaeological Society in identifying cartridges, bullets and casings found during their surveys. As his friend Alva related, "I was always amazed if we went on a trip, say, down to Helena or something. We'd go into the museum and Lawrence was so quiet and unassuming that the Curator there would be telling him about this gun and that gun and that gun. Lawrence would never question him or anything, you know, but pretty soon these guys were asking Lawrence - and Lawrence always had the answers. I saw that time and time again. When you went to these gun shows or to the small museums, pretty soon they had Lawrence figuring it out because he knew. He was really an expert when it came to guns."

By 1964, Lawrence had almost 300 guns in his collection. His group of Civil War guns was considered one of the most extensive collections in Canada. He now concentrated on upgrading his collection by acquiring guns in better condition than those he had. Lawrence was considered a "Premier Collector" of guns of that era. There were some rare guns, that Lawrence still wanted to obtain, but they were becoming increasingly difficult to find. England was the one major source Lawrence found for rare firearms. Numerous guns were manufactured in England for the Civil War; and many had been shipped back to England after the war and sold; others were purchased directly by English travellers who had visited the U.S. Lawrence, Rex and another collector, Ken Krauss,

Figure 15 Civil War firearms including Spencer, Sharps, Peabody and Ball carbines. Note the Civil War uniforms.

shared the expense of purchasing and shipping guns over from England.

In April of 1970, Lawrence discovered another vehicle for finding guns. Ken Krauss and Rex Johnson teamed up to launch *The GunRunner*, a monthly newspaper specifically for gun collectors and distributed throughout Canada and the United States. The front page contained an article about gun collecting, but the rest of the newspaper was devoted solely to advertising guns and gun shows. *The GunRunner* quickly became the North American network for gun collectors and it remains so to this day. Lawrence was one of the very first subscribers, placing an advertisement in the premier issue regarding his own collection needs. He advertised in the newspaper for so many years that he was eventually awarded a lifetime subscription.

Lawrence continued to acquire guns throughout the early 1970s, if they were in better condition than the ones he already had or were manufacturers' variations of certain models. Gun dealers would phone Lawrence when they acquired guns that he was looking for. Ron Serbin, one of the last gun dealers Lawrence dealt with, said that it was extremely difficult to locate a gun that Lawrence did not already have. He estimated that Lawrence added fewer than 20 guns to his collection during his last 20 years. Lawrence told a reporter in 1981 that he felt his gun collection was about "99 per cent complete as far as cavalry weapons go... I know it's as complete as I can get it...I know there is no hope of getting the few guns I'm missing - they're in museums."

By the late 1970s, Lawrence had essentially quit looking for guns. He ceased exhibiting regularly around 1974, only occasionally displaying his guns, upon request, for special functions after that time. He continued to attend the Calgary and Lethbridge gun shows for the rest of his life, however, just to visit with his old friends. The Lethbridge A.A.C.C.A. asked Lawrence to put together a major display of his collection, including uniforms and saddles, for their annual show in February 1992. Sadly, he never made that last show.

It was an impressive sight to see Lawrence's collection and an impressive achievement to have created it and cared for it for so long. His Civil War gun collection had been displayed in his den for so long, that when the rifles were removed after his death, the walls contained the shadow images of them from 28 years of resting there.

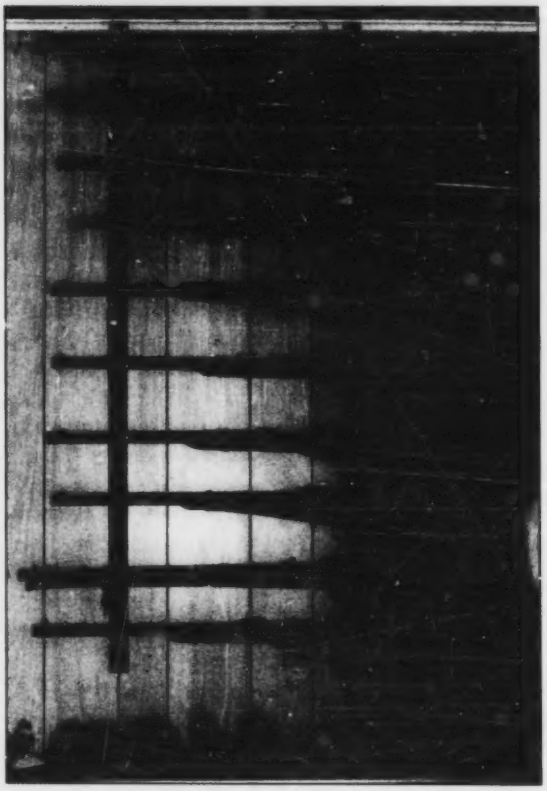

Figure 16 Civil War carbines displayed in Lawrence's den. Some of Lawrence's fossil collection can be seen at the base of the photo.

Content of the Civil War Gun Collection

While many of the stories about his guns were lost with Lawrence when he died, the following information was gathered from friends, family and other gun collectors and dealers Lawrence knew. Lawrence's fascination with Civil War guns was eventually restricted to Union Cavalry weapons. Union horse soldiers carried a carbine as their main weapon and a pair of army-issue dragoons (pistols) as backup weapons that were carried in saddle holsters, often one on each side of the saddle.

Cavalry issue carbines were special, with short barrels designed for use on horseback. There were no rifles with bayonet mounts in Lawrence's collection despite their common use in the Civil War, because horse soldiers did not use bayonets. According to Lawrence, cavalry weapons also lacked the swivels for shoulder slings found on weapons used by infantry and artillery. Most cavalry weapons had a saddle ring, however. A shoulder strap, with a clip, fit over the soldier's back and clipped onto the saddle ring to prevent the loss of the rifle while the soldier's horse was at a gallop.

One of the most interesting things about the guns in Lawrence's collection was the number of variations of a given model he possessed. Another was the number of specialty or handcrafted guns he had. Lawrence was fascinated by the progress made in the development of guns during the Civil War period. As Lawrence related, "guns went from flintlock to percussion, to breech load percussion, to cartridge, to the Gatling gun, which was an automatic weapon, all in the period of four years."

Figure 17 Variations on a theme. Lawrence attempted to collect all the models of each make of carbine adopted for use by the Union Cavalry during the American Civil War.

The shortage of weapons at the start of the war prompted many small town blacksmiths to become instant arms-makers, even if they made only one or two guns of their particular design. Lawrence had a number of these homemade guns in his collection. As Lawrence would say, "Some of my Civil War guns are the homeliest, worst looking weapons you could hang on a wall, but it's the history behind each gun that makes them worth having."

Lawrence's son, Dale, remembers his dad talking about a .69 calibre, underhammer percussion breech loading shotgun constructed by H. Larson of Drammen. According to Lawrence, Larson was a small town blacksmith who lived in the "boon docks" somewhere (possibly England) and manufactured only eight of these guns during the Civil War. Although collectors had heard about these guns, the one Lawrence owned was apparently the only one which ever survived.

Larger gun manufacturers, like Colt, Spencer, Henry, Starr, Remington, Sharps and Burnside, often experimented with or improved their designs and Lawrence liked to collect the varieties. "I try to get all the variations of each model," he told one reporter. "Some guns only had two or three experimental models made and they were never issued, but I still consider them from the Civil War... I'm missing just a few variations, improvements on certain models." Approximately twenty makes and models of guns were created during the Civil War, most of which Lawrence had in his collection. All were plain, basic working guns generally made of straight-grained wood and as rugged as possible to withstand combat. They lacked the frills or fancy checkered stocks most modern guns have. The Gatling gun was the ultimate weapon of the day. Lawrence did not have one in his collection because, of the few that survived, "99 percent are in museums."

Of all the gun companies, that existed during the Civil War, only Colt and Remington have survived to the present day. Most other manufacturers went bankrupt or were bought out by Colt, Remington or the newly formed Winchester Repeating Arms Company (1866). Winchester bought out the New

Haven Arms Company, which manufactured the Henry rifle (produced from 1860 to 1866). The Henry could fire fifteen shots as fast as the lever action could be worked, although it was notorious for misfiring. Winchester redesigned the Henry to correct its faults, calling their model the 1866 Winchester carbine. Lawrence had an example of both the last model Henry rifle and the first model Winchester rifle in his collection. The 1866 Winchester was the newest gun in Lawrence's collection of historical arms. The oldest gun Lawrence had was a 1777 flintlock Kentucky Rifle.

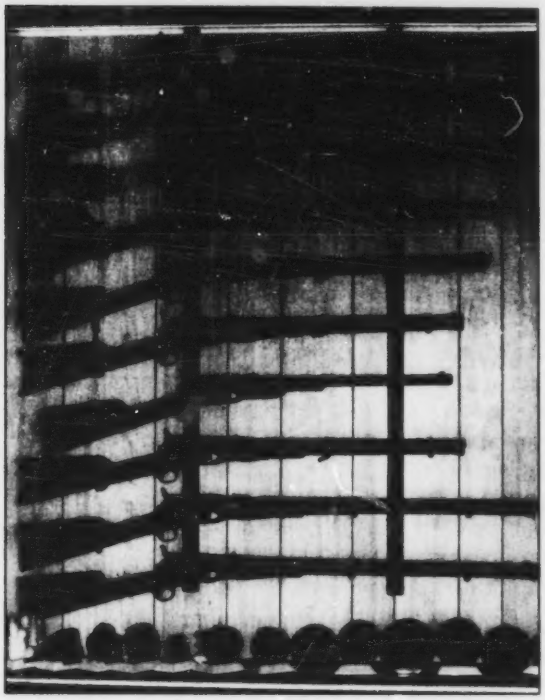

Figure 18 Part of Lawrence's amazing collection of Colt revolving rifles, carbines and shotguns below which is a small part of his prepared fossil collection.

Lawrence researched the history of each gun as thoroughly as possible. Tracing the history of each weapon was important and he went to great pains to ensure all the facts. He wouldn't create a story to embellish the history of a specific gun, no matter how plausible it might seem.

Lawrence had guns of the types that were used in the famous battles of Shiloh, Bull Run, Gettysburg and Appomattox, as well as from practically every other skirmish and major battle fought in the Civil War. He told one reporter, "I've got lots of stuff I know who it belonged to, but none are famous generals or soldiers I'm afraid. My research can discover who probably used a certain weapon, but to authenticate it would be almost impossible. In the field I'm in - it's 120 years old - very few records are kept and it's hard to trace down authentic information on a lot of this stuff, just the company."

The 1853 Sharps .52 calibre was the firearm that most fascinated Lawrence. It was one of the guns siezed from the Harper's Ferry arsenal when John Brown and his men raided it on October 16, 1859. That raid was the spark that finally ignited the Civil War. Lawrence told a reporter about the gun, "I wouldn't out and out say that Brown owned this gun, but it was captured in the raid. That's a proven fact. The guns in the arsenal were all recorded by their serial number and this gun is one of them. I wouldn't trade three of the same weapons in better shape for this Sharps because of its history. ...That goes back to when the war actually started."

Colt Revolving Rifles were special favourites of Lawrence's, forming a subset of his collection. They were some of his rarest guns. Developed in the 1850s before the Civil War, these rifles had a revolving cylinder, that gave them a great advantage over single shot weapons.

Colt tried out many variations of the revolving rifle, producing about 1000 copies of each kind. Some revolving rifles were made with long barrels some with short ones. A few barrels were up to 37 inches long, a carry-over from the days of flintlock rifles. Colt made short cavalry carbines as well. Lawrence worked to collect as many variations as he could find; his collection eventually numbered 28 rifles, including two of the first model issued. One of his revolving rifles, a .75 calibre, had a smooth bore that, by definition, made it a shotgun.

A total of 4712 Colt Revolving Rifles were sold to the U.S. Government during the Civil War. Samuel Colt went to great lengths to have them adopted for military service but, unfortunately, they were not well liked by soldiers or sportsmen. The flash or sideblast escaping between the junction of the revolving cylinder and barrel burned the shooter's wrist and multiple discharges

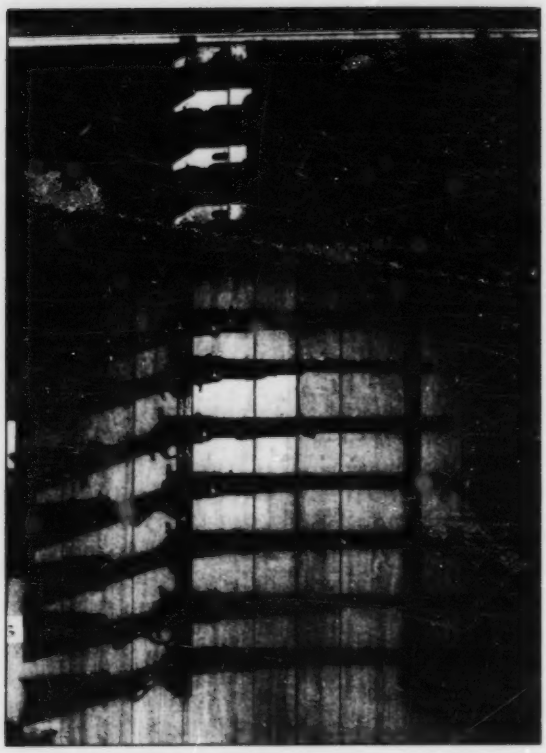

Figure 19 Eight more Colt revolving firearms displayed in Lawrence's den with brass framed Winchesters and a Henry lever-action repeating rifle.

occasionally happened. Consequently, only 15,000 of these rifles were manufactured (1856-1878), making them especially valuable to collectors. Lawrence developed his collection in the 1950s when few people were interested in them and by the 1960s revolving rifles were already extremely difficult to acquire. Lawrence had one of the few collections in North America and won a number of awards for them over the years.

One of the other unusual rifles in Lawrence's collection was the Porter Turret carbine, which had a unique ignition system. The cartridges were arranged in a radiating pattern in an exposed revolving cylinder located in such a position that the person shooting the gun always had one chamber pointed straight at his forehead! The gun occasionally chain fired whereby the whole cylinder ignited at once and usually spelled disaster for the shooter, making the guns quite unpopular.

Another unique gun that Lawrence owned was pointed out to me by Ron Serbin. Serbin remembers Lawrence most as the man from Warner to whom he sold a "Warner" rifle. Two Warner styles of rifles were produced during the Civil War. When Lawrence met Ron he already had the one made by Warner in his collection and was able to obtain the other one, made by Greene, from Ron. Lawrence wanted them in his collection primarily because of their name, even though their history is not associated with the town of Warner near Lawrence's farm.

Al Thompson, another gun collector, said that Lawrence was the only man he knew of with a collection of Manhattan pistols, revolvers that were popular during the Civil War. Two other pistols in his collection attracted interest. An article in Western People related the following about them:

> "Two of the hand guns owned by Halmrast are worlds apart in size, but have many similarities. Both are made by Colt, are .44 calibre and Civil War era. The dragoon, from 1847, weighs slightly more than four pounds; the derringer, from 1865, weighs only six ounces. The derringer is a rim fire weapon, the dragoon a cap and ball.
>
> The dragoon, like the sidearm carried by the Texas Rangers, was not worn on the hip but was carried by the cavalry in saddle holsters, often one on each side of the saddle. The Rangers' dragoon, however, had a longer barrel and was heavier.
>
> Dragoons saw action in the Civil and Indian wars. Derringers, not army issue, saw their action mainly in saloons as concealed weapons carried by gamblers and saloon 'ladies'.
>
> The derringer sold for $8 to $9 new, the dragoon for $30 to $35. Today they are collectors' prizes."

True to his inquiring nature, Lawrence's interest in the Civil War went beyond guns. He had several shelves of books on the history and conduct of the war. His collection also included other Civil War artifacts such as cartridges, shells, cannon balls, a bugle, a saddle, a bedstead, swords, bridles, belts, buckles, holsters, badges and, at one time, even an

original Civil War cannon. Lawrence actually manufactured his own replica of a Civil War cannon that sat out in his back yard. Lawrence also made a miniature cannon that fired primers; the cannon occupied a place of honour on the mantle of his fireplace for many years.

Lawrence's den also contained two Civil War uniforms, one a Union uniform, the other a Confederate one. He often said they came to him just by luck. Lawrence "picked up the Union uniform in Saskatchewan and the Confederate uniform came from Salem, Oregon." The Confederate grey uniform belonged to a drummer sergeant. The blue Union uniform, that of a Captain in the Engineers, came with a discharge medal, from which Lawrence was able to obtain a serviceman's number and trace the medal's history through military archives in Washington, D.C. The medal, but not the uniform, could be traced to Cyrus Lovett, a Canadian who had volunteered to serve in the Civil War and reached the rank of Sergeant in D Company, the 2nd Regiment of Minnesota Vet. Inf. Volunteers. Lovett was 5 ft 10 in tall, had blue eyes, a sandy complexion and brown hair, according to his discharge papers and had been born in New York. He served from June 4, 1864 to July 11, 1865 and later applied for and was granted U.S. Citizenship in 1870 after remaining in the country for five years.

Other Guns Collected

Throughout the years Lawrence collected numerous other firearms but eventually ended up trading most of them for additions to his collection of Civil War weapons. Only a few of these weapons were eventually kept, ones that were personal favourites or evoked special memories.

During his earliest years, Lawrence developed a good collection of Winchesters and Centennial rifles (reproductions of various famous guns). He also collected most of the models used by the Northwest Mounted Police, but he eventually traded most of these guns away. Lawrence donated one of the few N.W.M.P. rifles he kept, a .45-75 Winchester 1876, to Writing-on-Stone Provincial Park.

Lawrence also had quite a number of pistols that were not part of his main collection. One pistol, a modern Locksford copy of the Steven's .22 calibre pistol, was a keepsake from the years Lawrence was associated with the Alberta Gun Craft shop; the shop's name was engraved on it, along with the year 1967/68 and L.D. Halmrast. Another pistol Lawrence prized was a Police Positive Colt six-shot revolver issued to Lethbridge Chief of Police, James H. Carpenter, a good friend of Lawrence's. It was displayed in a frame on the wall, along with a letter identifying its former owner and a picture of Mr. Carpenter in his police uniform.

Al Thompson remembers Lawrence owning a Model 77 Colt (.38 calibre pistol) with one-piece rosewood grips. Twenty-four of these pistols were sent to England to be tested by the War Department in 1877. They were manufactured in the United States and were stamped "Not British Made" with proof marks all over them so that the British could not claim them as their own invention.

Lawrence also had a large, authentic World War I cannon in his yard which he purchased for $50.00 at an Army Surplus store in Lethbridge. Two of them were available at the time. Lawrence bought one but he often said he should have bought both so that he would have had a pair. He also had a number of Second World War machine guns at one time but traded them all away.

Part 3

LAWRENCE HALMRAST'S LEGACY

One of the most remarkable things about Lawrence Halmrast was his capacity to share. He loved to see children's eyes light up when he helped them find their first dinosaur bone, or to watch an audience become enthused as he talked about history, archaeology or the Milk River. A field trip to discover new historical treasures was never complete without friends to share it with. If someone needed help, Lawrence was always there, willing to contribute. Sharing and helping were as much a part of Lawrence's being as the land he loved and the family he cared for.

In the same way, Lawrence's collections were something to be shared, to be taken on the road, to be used to teach about the place Lawrence loved most, the Milk River. If something he discovered was significant, Lawrence was delighted to be able to donate it to a museum or researcher to help advance the current knowledge about southern Alberta. If he had photographs people admired or needed, he would gladly give them away. If he had information about some subject another person was researching, he was the first to share it. Lawrence's hobbies were always aimed at sharing, teaching and conserving southern Alberta's historical and natural resources.

As Lawrence neared death, he was determined that his collections should continue to be useful to all Albertans and not end up scattered among private collections. With only a short time to make the arrangements before cancer took his life, Lawrence made his final contribution to the land and people he loved. He donated his entire Civil War gun collection, his many archaeological artifacts and palaeontological specimens and most of his photographic collection to the Provincial Museum of Alberta and the Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology for the benefit of all Albertans. In addition, throughout the last few weeks of his life, Lawrence and his lifelong friend, Alva Bair, spent hours recording memories and the significant discoveries the two men made during the 40 years they explored the Milk River, thus preserving valuable information that otherwise would have been lost. This was no small contribution. Lawrence's collections and reminiscences documenting the historic sites he and Alva discovered, represent a substantial contribution to our knowledge of the Milk River country; and they continue to contribute to our knowledge and enrich the lives of others. Lawrence's Civil War gun collection was a major donation to the people of Alberta and Canada. It will continue to function as a source of new knowledge and exhibits for generations to come. It is one of the best collections of its kind in Canada. Lawrence's archaeological collection provides important information on the aboriginal people who once occupied southern Alberta and objects from his collection will be displayed at the Provincial Museum of Alberta.

Many of Lawrence's contributions to archaeology also remain as legacies in the published literature. His photographic work recording the pictographs, petroglyphs and historic signatures along the Milk River will in time constitute a record of what once was, as these historic and prehistoric features erode away. His contributions to local history books will help preserve and teach future generations about the settlement of southern Alberta.

Lawrence's fossil and geology collection, that he used to teach so many people about dinosaurs and palaeontology, has already begun a life of its own as a teaching tool, through the donation of almost 200 specimens to the Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology and to the Provincial Museum of Alberta. Within their first year at the Tyrrell, some of Lawrence's fossils were being used used in travelling exhibits, in interpretive programming within the museum and in educational kits sent to schools around Alberta. He would have been very pleased.

A number of Lawrence's fossils are of specific importance in scientific study. Plant fossils that Lawrence found in Verdigris Coulee, including some very large palm-like leaves, are being studied by Dr. Dennis Braman, a plant palaeontologist at the Royal Tyrrell Museum. The many dinosaur bones and other fossils Lawrence collected on the Milk River Ridge (many hadrosaur bones, some horned dinosaurs, Tyrannosaurus rex teeth, turtle

shell and some small reptile bones) may be an important link to the Devil's Coulee nest site locality. An additional 22 fossil specimens are of particular interest because of a specific feature they demonstrate, an abnormality, a healed fracture, toothmarks and most intriguing, the possibility of a new species of horned dinosaur, evidenced as yet only by isolated fragments.

Lawrence's dream, that professional palaeontologists would someday be interested in the sites he had found in Milk River country, was realized before he died. With the Devil's Coulee discovery, Lawrence was able to show Royal Tyrrell Museum staff the many sites he had discovered over the years and to participate in the professional excavation of several of them. Having the site he discovered at the Milk River Ridge Reservoir named after him forms a permanent reminder of Lawrence Halmrast's active participation in palaeontology.

Lawrence made many contributions to his community and to southern Alberta over his 67 years. Some, like his collections, will remain tangible reminders of the impact this one southern Albertan farmer made in his lifetime. Others are less tangible, but no less remarkable. The tremendous work Lawrence did as an ambassador for the Milk River country and Writing-on-Stone Provincial Park and as a promoter of the conservation of Alberta's natural and cultural resources will affect the Milk River country for years to come. Through the countless talks and field trips, the years of work with Cubs, Scouts and fish and game clubs, his participation in various archaeological, historical, gun and rock clubs and the time he spent with friends and family, Lawrence made a lasting impression on hundreds of people, young and old.

To anyone who knew or met him, the mention of the name Lawrence Halmrast always brings a warm smile of remembrance. Usually this is accompanied by a tale of something Lawrence did that was significant, a slide show, a special gift, a memorable field trip, or a visit to his unusual home museum and a touch of sadness for someone truly missed.

Although it was never his goal or desire to be recognized, Lawrence Halmrast had a very significant impact on the people and the land of southern Alberta. While he never achieved widespread fame or recognition, this humble Guardian of the Milk River will be remembered for a long time by the people whose lives he touched. His life is proof that one person truly can make a difference.

Figure 20 Lawrence Devern Halmrast, Honourary Doctor of Laws, University of Lethbridge, October 19, 1991.

APPENDIX 1: CLUBS AND ASSOCIATIONS OF WHICH LAWRENCE WAS A MEMBER

Lawrence belonged to many clubs and associations over his life, including the following:

Archaeological Society of Alberta, Lethbridge Chapter
Historical Society of Alberta
Lethbridge Historical Society
Warner Rifle and Revolver Club
Alberta Arms and Cartridge Collectors Association
Saskatchewan Gun Collectors Association
Montana Arms Collectors Association
Southern Alberta Rock Hounds
Foremost Fish and Game Association
Southern Alberta Outdoorsmen
Warner Boy Scouts Association
Warner and District Historical Society
Milk River Historical Society
Friends of the Royal Tyrrell Museum

Volunteered or Co-operated With:

Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology
Travel Alberta
Archaeological Survey of Alberta
Alberta Fish and Wildlife Division
Operation Burrowing Owl
Alberta Hunter Education
Ducks Unlimited, Canada
Writing-on-Stone Provincial Park

APPENDIX 2: LIST OF PUBLICATIONS TO WHICH LAWRENCE CONTRIBUTED

Halmrast, L. and A. Bair. Alberta Snow Hunt. Field and Stream, Volume LXVI No. 1, May, 1961, pp 72-73

Archaeological Society of Alberta. Lethbridge Centre. "Antelope Hill, a Survey of Two Boulder Outlines". Project No. 4, June 21, 1970. 8 pp.

Archaeological Society of Alberta, Lethbridge Centre. "Stevens Rock, a salvage survey of a petroglyph rock and surrounding boulder outlines". August 1972.

Archaeological Society of Alberta. Lethbridge Centre. "Police Coulee, A pictorial record of prehistoric and historic artifacts, petroglyphs & pictographs". Project No. 11. May 27, 1973.

Archaeological Society of Alberta. Lethbridge Centre. "Indian Battle Coulee, A record of artifacts from the last Inter-Tribal Indian battle". Project No. 15. 1974-1975.

Archaeological Society of Alberta. Lethbridge Centre. "Grassy Lake Site, A survey and mapping of a stone cairn (D10v-1) and a boulder outline adjacent thereto (possible turtle) and a large circle of stones with radiating lines (D10v-1)".1976

Archaeological Society of Alberta. Lethbridge Centre. "Inventory of artifacts from the last Indian battle of 1870 (mid-October) at Belly River". DkPf-5. Limited Edition, April 1978.

Archaeological Society of Alberta, Lethbridge Centre. Story-on-Stone. A photographic record of rock art in the southern Alberta area surrounding the City of Lethbridge. (Lawrence took all the photographs and did much of the work to see this publication developed.)

Warner and District Historical Society. Wagons to Wings. Local history of Warner, Alberta. 1985 (Lawrence did all the photographs and contributed much written material as a member of the Historical Society).

APPENDIX 3:
AWARDS LAWRENCE RECEIVED

The following list of awards won by Lawrence over the years for his gun collection is based on newspaper articles and the various trophies displayed in his home. A.A.C.C.A. represents Alberta Arms and Cartridge Collectors Association; S.G.C.A. represents Saskatchewan Gun Collectors Association; and M.A.C.A. represents Montana Arms Collectors Association.

1965 Best of the Show. Lethbridge. A.A.C.C.A.
1965 Best Percussion. Lethbridge. A.A.C.C.A.
1965 People's Choice Award. Lethbridge. A.A.C.C.A.
1965 General. Lethbridge. A.A.C.C.A.
1965 Best General Long Arms. S.G.C.A. Saskatoon.
1965 Best General Rifle Display. S.G.C.A. Regina.
1965 Best Colt Display. S.G.C.A. Regina
1966 Best of the Show. Lethbridge. A.A.C.C.A.
1966 American Historical Arms. Lethbridge. A.A.C.C.A.
1966 General. Lethbridge. A.A.C.C.A.
1966 Best Colt Display. A.A.C.C.A. Lethbridge
1966 Calgary Brewery Trophy. Best Long Arms Display. A.A.C.C.A.
1966 Award. M.A.C.A.
1966 1st Martials. Bozeman Trail Gun Show. Butte, Montana
1966 Best General Long Arm Collection. S.G.C.A. Regina
1966 Best Percussion Rifle. Gun Show. Presented by Robin Nodwell MFG Ltd.
1967 Best Percussion Rifle. Calgary Gun Show. Presented by Robin Nodwell MFG Ltd. A.A.C.C.A.
1967 General. Lethbridge. A.A.C.C.A.
1967 American Historical. Lethbridge. A.A.C.C.A.
1967 lst Martial Arms. Great Falls. N.A.C.A.
1967 lst Place Martial Arms. Bozeman Trail Gun Show.
1967 Centennial Antique Auto and Gun Show. Saskatoon.
1967 1st Single Shot Rifles. Regina. S.G.C.A.
1968 2nd Handguns. Regina. S.G.C.A.
1968 1st Military Long Arms. Regina. S.G.C.A.
1968 3rd Mixed Arms. Regina. S.G.C.A.
1968 Display Award. Lethbridge. A.A.C.C.A.
1968 General. Lethbridge. A.A.C.C.A.
1968 American Historical. Lethbridge. A.A.C.C.A.
1968 Best Colt. Lethbridge. A.A.C.C.A.
1969 Best Specialized Arms Display. A.A.C.C.A.
1969 American Historical. A.A.C.C.A.
1972 Military Display. Calgary. A.A.C.C.A.
1972 Gold Award. Canadian Historical Arms Society - Spring
1973 Long Arms Award. Calgary. A.A.C.C.A.
1975 Taber Gun Show A.A.C.C.A.
1976 Taber Hobby Show
1977 Taber Hobby Show
1982 Best Long Arm Display. McGuires Trading Post Trophy. Hanna Rod and Gun Club.
1983 Judges Award. Donated by Big Country Sports and Cycle. Hanna Rod and Gun Club, Gun and Hobby Show.
1986 Taber Gun Show.
1962-1986 Silver Anniversary Member. A.A.C.C.A.

Fish and Game Awards and Trophies

1958 2nd prize for Pike (7 lbs.), 17th Annual Awards Day of the Willow Valley Trophy Club (Lawrence's father won first and third prize for pike that year)
1959 Northern Pike Record Entry. Rod and Gun Shop Trophy. (14 lbs 12 oz)
1960 W.V.T.C. Score 152 5/8 (Willow Valley Trophy Club)
1960 Whitetail Deer. Foremost Fish and Game Association
1961 Whitetail Deer Trophy (152 5/8 points), Willow Valley Trophy Club
1961 Second Prize. Pheasant. Foremost Fish and Game Competition
1963 Second Prize. Northern Pike. (11 lbs 4 oz)
1963 Third Prize. Trout. Foremost Fish and Game Competition
1964 Second Prize. Pike. Lethbridge Fish and Game Presentations. (11 lb 4 oz) enrolled in the Bridge Sportsmen of the Year Club.
1965 Sportsman of the Year Award. Presented to Lawrence by Andy Russell
1965 Third Prize Winner for Trout. Foremost Fish and Game Competition
1965 Distinguished Service Recognition certificate from Alberta Fish and Game Association
1970 Pheasant - George Wolfe Memorial Trophy.
1971 Pheasant. Foremost Fish and Game. (39 8/16 in)
n.d. Field and Stream Awards for Mule Deer, Whitetail Deer, Elk, Bear, Antelope and Goat.
1981 Certificate of Merit, the Foremost Fish and Game Association
1987+Certificate of Merit, Southern Alberta Outdoorsmen, Aden Club
1986 The Alberta Order of the Bighorn

Other Awards

1989 The Warner School "Learning for Life" Certificate (April 26)
1991 Honourary Doctorate of Laws. The University of Lethbridge (October 19).

APPENDIX 4: LIST OF FIREARMS AND ACCOUTREMENTS

The following list gives the manufacturer, calibre, serial number and museum catalogue number for each firearm. Note: NVS# = No visible serial number

US/S North, 1843, Carbine, Percussion, .52 calibre, Cat. No. H92.7.1
Merwin and Bray Agents, Carbine, Rimfire, .44 calibre, Ser. #17079, Cat. No. H92.7.2
Manhe and Company, Carbine, Percussion, .52 calibre, Ser. #3850, Cat. No. H92.7.3
J.H. Merrill, Carbine, Percussion, .54 calibre, Ser. #279, Cat. No. H92.7.5
Burnside Rifle Company, Third, Carbine, Percussion, .54 calibre, Ser. #32531, Cat. No. H92.7.6
Ball and Williams, Carbine, Rimfire, .44 calibre, Ser. #752, Cat. No. H92.7.7
Mass. Arms Company, Carbine, Percussion, .50 calibre, Ser. #2454, Cat. No. H92.7.8
Frank Wesson, Carbine, Rimfire, .22 calibre, Ser. #57, Cat. No. H92.7.9
Starr Arms Company, Carbine, Rimfire, .52 calibre, Ser. #30809, Cat. No. H92.7.10
Starr Arms Company, Carbine, Percussion, .54 calibre, Ser. #10499, Cat. No. H92.7.11
Starr Arms, Carbine, Rimfire, .52 calibre, Ser. #10673, Cat. No. H92.7.12
Sharps, Carbine, Rimfire, .52 calibre, Ser. #4941, Cat. No. H92.7.13
US/S North, Carbine, Percussion, .52 calibre, Ser. #33, Cat. No. H92.7.14
J.H. Merrill, Carbine, Percussion, .54 calibre, Ser. #12538, Cat. No. H92.7.15
Warner, Carbine, Rimfire, .50 calibre, Ser. #2531, Cat. No. H92.7.16
Greene Rifle Works, Carbine, Rimfire, .50 calibre, Ser. #2541, Cat. No. H92.7.17
Sharps and Hankins, Carbine, Rimfire, .52 calibre, Ser. #6143, Cat. No. H92.7.18
Sharps and Hankins, Carbine, Rimfire, .52 calibre, Ser. #8291, Cat. No. H92.7.19
Remington, Carbine, Rimfire, .50 calibre, Cat. No. H92.7.20
Sharps Rifle Manufacturing Company, 1863, Carbine, Percussion, .52 calibre, Ser. #99343, Cat. No. H92.7.21
Robbins and Lawrence, Carbine, Pellet Primer, .52 calibre, Ser. #10185, Cat. No. H92.7.22
Sharps Rifle Manufacturing Company, 185557, Carbine, Percussion, .577 calibre, Ser. #22970, Cat. No. H92.7.23
C. Sharps, Carbine, Percussion, .52 calibre, Ser. #3840, Cat. No. H92.7.24
Sharps Rifle Manufacturing Company, 1859, Carbine, Percussion, .52 calibre, Ser. #31723, Cat. No. H92.7.25
Gwyn and Campbell, Carbine, Percussion, .52 calibre, Ser. #2409, Cat. No. H92.7.26
Gwyn and Campbell, Carbine, Percussion, .52 calibre, Ser. #3596, Cat. No. H92.7.27
Gwyn and Campbell, Carbine, Percussion, .52 calibre, Ser. #4002, Cat. No. H92.7.28
Mass. Arms Company, Carbine, Percussion, .54 calibre, Ser. #216, Cat. No. H92.7.29
Burnside Rifle Company, Third, Carbine, Percussion, .54 calibre, Ser. #35206, Cat. No. H92.7.30
Burnside Rifle Company, 1864, Carbine, Percussion, .54 calibre, Ser. #33920, Cat. No. H92.7.31
Mass. Arms Company, Second, Carbine, Percussion, .50 calibre, Ser. #22410, Cat. No. H92.7.32
Remington, Carbine, Rimfire, .46 calibre, Ser. #3737, Cat. No. H92.7.33
J.H. Merrill, Carbine, Percussion, .54 calibre, Ser. #11485, Cat. No. H92.7.34
Gallager, Carbine, Percussion, .50 calibre, Ser. #24 8, Cat. No. H92.7.35
E.G. Palmer and Company, Carbine, Rimfire, .50 calibre, Ser. #66, Cat. No. H92.7.36
N.P. Ames, Carbine, Percussion, .54 calibre, Ser. #6114, Cat. No. H92.7.37
Whitney Arms Company, Carbine, Rimfire, .44 calibre, Ser. #518, Cat. No. H92.7.38
Lee's Firearm Company, Carbine, Rimfire, .44 calibre, Ser. #1421, Cat. No. H92.7.39
Sharps, Carbine, Percussion, .52 calibre, Ser. #23019, Cat. No. H92.7.40
E.G. Lamson and Company, Carbine, Rimfire, .50 calibre, NVS#, Cat. No. H92.7.41
Edward Linder's, Carbine, Percussion, .58 calibre, NVS#, Cat. No. H92.7.42
Providence Tool Company, Carbine, Rimfire, .4570 calibre, Ser. #18405, Cat. No. H92.7.43
Wm. F. Brooks, Carbine, Percussion, .52 calibre, NVS#, Cat. No. H92.7.44
Sharps Rifle Manufacturing Company, 1863, Carbine, Percussion, .52 calibre, Ser. #59135, Cat. No. H92.7.45
Richardson and Overman, Carbine, Percussion, .50 calibre, Ser. #24530, Cat. No. H92.7.46
Mass. Arms Company, Carbine, Percussion, .50 calibre, Ser. #15196, Cat. No. H92.7.47
Gwyn and Campbell, Carbine, Percussion, .52 calibre, Ser. #1792, Cat. No. H92.7.48
Spencer Repeating Rifle Company, 1865, Carbine, Rimfire, .50 calibre, Ser. #8043, Cat. No. H92.7.49
Burnside Rifle Company, 1865, Carbine, Rimfire, .5650 calibre, Ser. #3264, Cat. No. H92.7.50
Spencer Repeating Rifle Company, Civil War, Carbine, Rimfire, .52 calibre, Ser. #10505, Cat. No. H92.7.51

Carbine, Percussion, .62 calibre,
Cat. #H92.7.52
C. Sharps, 1859, Carbine, Percussion, .52 calibre,
Ser. #69740, Cat. No. H92.7.53
Joslyn Firearms Company, 1862, Carbine, Rimfire, .52 calibre,
Ser. #1471, Cat. No. H92.7.54
American Machine Works, Carbine, Percussion, .50 calibre,
Ser. #1453, Cat. No. H92.7.55
Joslyn Firearms Company, 1864, Carbine, Rimfire, .52 calibre,
Ser. #5578, Cat. No. H92.7.56
Ball and Williams, Carbine, Rimfire, .44 calibre,
Ser. #11252, Cat. No. H92.7.57
Meriden Manufacturing Company, Carbine, Rimfire, .50 calibre,
Ser. #3260, Cat. No. H92.7.58
Sharps Rifle Manufacturing Company, 1863,
Carbine, Rimfire, .52 calibre,
Ser. #63609, Cat. No. H92.7.59
Frank Wesson, Carbine, Rimfire, .38 calibre,
Ser. #8759, Cat. No. H92.7.60
Evans Repeating Rifle, Carbine, Centrefire, .44 calibre,
Ser. #1632, Cat. No. H92.7.61
Lee's Firearm Company, Carbine, Rimfire, .38 calibre,
Ser. #1865, Cat. No. H92.7.62
Westley Richards and Company,
Carbine, Percussion, .451 calibre,
Ser. #1488, Cat. No. H92.7.63
Joslyn Firearms Company, 1862, Carbine, Rimfire, .52 calibre,
Ser. #3324; 3524, Cat. No. H92.7.64
J.H. Merrill, Carbine, Percussion, .54 calibre,
Ser. #11705; 4972, Cat. No. H92.7.65
E.G. Lamson and Company, Carbine, Rimfire, .50 calibre,
NVS#, Cat. No. H92.7.66
Burnside Rifle Company, Third, Carbine, Percussion, .54 calibre,
Ser. #3687, Cat. No. H92.7.67
Sharps and Hankins, 1862, Carbine, Rimfire, .52 calibre,
Ser. #647, Cat. No. H92.7.68
E. Allen and Company, Carbine, Rimfire, .44 calibre,
Ser. #313, Cat. No. H92.7.69
Harpers Ferry, 1841, Rifle, Percussion, .64 calibre,
NVS#, Cat. No. H92.7.83
Carbine, Percussion, .75 calibre,
NVS#, Cat. No. H92.7.84
Address Col. Colt, 1855, Carbine, Percussion, .44 calibre,
Ser. #826, Cat. No. H92.7.85
Col. Colt, 1855, Rifle, Percussion, .56 calibre,
Ser. #2328, Cat. No. H92.7.86
Col. Colt, 1855, Rifle, Percussion, .56 calibre,
Ser. #988, Cat. No. H92.7.87
Colt, 1855, Rifle, Percussion, .56 calibre,
Ser. #4178, Cat. No. H92.7
Col. Colt, 1855, Rifle, Percussion, .56 calibre,
Ser. #6736; 8071, Cat. No. H92.7.89
Colt, 1855, Rifle, Percussion, .50 calibre,
Ser. #20, Cat. No. H92.7.90
Colt, 1855, Carbine, Percussion, .56 calibre,
Ser. #3023, Cat. No. H92.7.91
Col. Colt, 1855, Rifle, Percussion, .36 calibre,
Ser. #1194, Cat. No. H92.7.92
Col. Colt, 1855, Rifle, Percussion,
Ser. #1615; 2036 ?, Cat. No. H92.7.93
Colt, 1855, Rifle, Percussion, .50 calibre,
Ser. #17, Cat. No. H92.7.94
Col. Colt, 1855, Rifle, Percussion, .56 calibre,
Ser. #3579, Cat. No. H92.7.95
Colt, 1855, Rifle, Percussion, .56 calibre,
Ser. #669, Cat. No. H92.7.96
Colt, 1855, Rifle, Percussion, .44 calibre,
Ser. #42, Cat. No. H92.7.97
Col. Colt, 1855, Rifle, Percussion, .56 calibre,
Ser. #2797, Cat. No. H92.7.98
Colt, 1855, Rifle, Percussion, .44 calibre,
Ser. #1619, Cat. No. H92.7.99
Colt, 1855, Rifle, Percussion, .36 calibre,
Ser. No. 693, Cat. No. H92.7.100
Colt, 1855, Rifle, Percussion, .44 calibre,
Ser. #2869, Cat. No. H92.7.101
Colt, 1855, Rifle, Percussion, .44 calibre,
Ser. #2304, Cat. No. H92.7.102
Col. Colt, 1855, Shotgun, Percussion, 10 gauge,
Ser. #992, Cat. No. H92.7.103
Col. Colt, 1855, Rifle, Percussion, .56 calibre,
Ser. #7956, Cat. No. H92.7.104
Colt, Rifle, Percussion, .36 calibre,
NVS#, Cat. No. H92.7.105
Porter, First, Rifle, Percussion, .44 calibre,
Ser. #52, Cat. No. H92.7.106
Larsen Drammen, Shotgun, Percussion, 12 gauge,
Ser. #XIX, Cat. No. H92.7.107
Colt, First, Revolver, Percussion, .44 calibre,
Ser. #7407, Cat. No. H92.7.108
Colt, London Model 1849, Revolver, Percussion, .31 calibre,
Ser. #188182, Cat. No. H92.7.109
Colt, London Model 1849, Revolver, Percussion, .31 calibre,
Ser. #274749, Cat. No. H92.7.110
Colt, 1851, Revolver, Percussion, .36 calibre,
Ser. #104791, Cat. No. H92.7.111
Colt, 1851, Revolver, Percussion, .36 calibre,
Ser. #170966, Cat. No. H92.7.112
Colt, 1851, Revolver, Percussion, .36 calibre,
Ser. #111811, Cat. No. H92.7.113
Colt, 1851, Revolver, Percussion, .36 calibre,
Ser. #211303, Cat. No. H92.7.114
Colt, 1855, Revolver, Percussion, .28 calibre,
Ser. #13423, Cat. No. H92.7.115
Samuel Colt, 1860, Revolver, Percussion, .44 calibre,
Ser. #122290, Cat. No. H92.7.116
Samuel Colt, 1861, Revolver, Percussion, .36 calibre,
Ser. #4672, Cat. No. H92.7.117
Samuel Colt, 1860, Revolver, Percussion, .44 calibre,
Ser. #131903, Cat. No. H92.7.118
Colt, 1860, Revolver, Centrefire, .44 calibre,
Ser. #1851, Cat. No. H92.7.119
Colt, 1862, Revolver, Percussion, .36 calibre,
Ser. #17607, Cat. No. H92.7.120
Colt, Third, Derringer, Rimfire, .41 calibre,
Ser. #40516, Cat. No. H92.7.121

Marble Safety Axe Company,
Pistol, Rimfire Centrefire combination, .
22 calibre; .44 calibre,
Ser. #5753, Cat. No. H92.7.122
Connecticut Arms and Manufacturing Company,
Pistol, Rimfire, .44 calibre,
Ser. #881, Cat. No. H92.7.123
D. Moore, Revolver, Rimfire, .32 calibre,
Ser. #3312, Cat. No. H92.7.124
Manhattan Fire Arms Company,
Revolver, Percussion, .36 calibre,
Ser. #25061, Cat. No. H92.7.125
Manhattan Fire Arms Company,
Revolver, Percussion, .36 calibre,
Ser. #56143, Cat. No. H92.7.126
Stocking and Company,
Revolver, Pepper box; Percussion, .28 calibre,
Ser. #89136, Cat. No. H92.7.127
E. Whitney, Revolver, Percussion, .31 calibre,
Ser. #30472, Cat. No. H92.7.128
E. Whitney, Revolver, Percussion, .36 calibre,
Ser. #28465, Cat. No. H92.7.129
E. Remington and Sons, 1858,
Revolver, Percussion, .44 calibre,
Ser. #32245, Cat. No. H92.7.130
E. Remington and Sons, 1858 New Model,
Revolver, Percussion, .44 calibre,
Ser. #34446, Cat. No. H92.7.131
Remington and Sons, 1858 New Model,
Revolver, Percussion, .36 calibre,
Ser. #34996, Cat. No. H92.7.132
Starr Arms Company, 1858, Revolver, Percussion, .36 calibre,
Ser. #2624, Cat. No. H92.7.133
Starr Arms Company, 1858, Revolver, Percussion, .44 calibre,
Ser. #13578, Cat. No. H92.7.134
Starr Arms Company, 1858, Revolver, Percussion, .44 calibre,
Ser. #16597, Cat. No. H92.7.135
Starr Arms Company, 1863, Revolver, Percussion, .44 calibre,
Ser. #24876, Cat. No. H92.7.136
Starr Arms Company, 1863, Revolver, Percussion, .44 calibre,
Ser. #52061, Cat. No. H92.7.137
Colts PTFA Manufacturing Company, 1871,
Revolver, Rimfire, .22 calibre,
Ser. #18601, Cat. No. H92.7.138
Rogers and Spencer, Revolver, Percussion, .44 calibre,
Ser. #4574, Cat. No. H92.7.139
Plant's Manufacturing Company, Third,
Revolver, Cup primed, .42 calibre,
Ser. #5068, Cat. No. H92.7.140
Smith and Wesson, No. 2 Old Model,
Revolver, Rimfire, .32 calibre,
Ser. #11255, Cat. No. H92.7.141
Allen and Wheelock, Revolver, Percussion, .44 calibre,
Ser. #9902, Cat. No. H92.7.142
E.A. Prescott, Navy ?, Revolver, Rimfire, .38 calibre,
Ser. #51, Cat. No. H92.7.143
James Warner, Second, Revolver, Percussion, .28 calibre,
Ser. #6311, Cat. No. H92.7.144
E. Whitney, Revolver, Percussion, .36 calibre,
Cat. No. H92.7.151
Merwin and Bray, Carbine, Rimfire, .54 calibre,
Ser. #257, Cat. No. H92.7.4

LIST OF AMMUNITION IN THE HALMRAST COLLECTION

D W M; Deutsche Waffen und Munitions,
Cartridge, Centrefire, Rimless; Bottleneck, .30 calibre
Luger Parabellum Pistol, 7.64 mm,
Cat. No. H92.7.154
Dominion Ammunition Division of Canadian Industries,
Cartridge, Centrefire; Semirimmed; Straight, .32 calibre
Automatic Colt Pistol; 7.65 mm,
Cat. No. H92.7.155
Cartridge, Centrefire; Rimmed; Straight, .32 calibre
Smith and Wesson Revolver,
Cat. No. H92.7.156
Winchester Repeating Arms Company,
Cartridge, Centrefire; Rimmed; Straight, .32 calibre
Colt New Police Revolver,
Cat. No. H92.7.157
Winchester Repeating Arms Company,
Cartridge, Centrefire; Rimmed; Straight, .32 calibre
Colt New Police Revolver,
Cat. No. H92.7.158
Defence Industries Limited, Division of the Canadian
Industries Limited,
Cartridge, Centrefire; Rimless; Straight, 9 mm
Parabellum; 9 mm Luger Pistol,
Cat. No. H92.7.159
Teuto Metalwerke,
Cartridge, Centrefire; Rimless; Straight,9 mm
Parabellum;9 mm Luger Pistol,
Cat. No. H92.7.160
Dominion Cartridge Company, Cartridge,
Centrefire; Rimmed; Straight, .380 calibre Revolver,
Cat. No. H92.7.161
Winchester Repeating Arms Company, Cartridge,
Centrefire; Rimmed; Straight, .38 calibre long Colt Revolver,
Cat. No. H92.7.162
Dominion Cartridge Company, Cartridge,
Centrefire, Rimmed, Straight, .38 calibre
Smith and Wesson Special Revolver,
Cat. No. H92.7.163
Remington ArmsUnion Metallic Arms Company,
Cartridge, Centrefire; Rimmed; Straight, .38 calibre
Smith & Wesson Special Birdshot Revolver,
Cat. No. H92.7.164
Dominion Ammunition Division of Canadian Industries Limited,
Cartridge, Centrefire; Rimmed; Straight, .38 calibre
Smith and Wesson Revolver,
Cat. No. H92.7.165
Dominion Cartridges Co. Division of Canadian Industries Limited,
Cartridge, Centrefire; Semirimmed; Straight. .38 calibre
Automatic Colt Pistol (ACP) and Super Auto,
Cat. No. H92.7.166

Western Cartage Company, Cartridge,
Centrefire; Rimmed; Straight, .41 calibre
Long Colt Revolver,
Cat. No. H92.7.167

Western Cartage Company, Cartridge,
Centrefire; Semirimmed; Straight, .30 calibre
U.S. M1 Carbine Military,
Cat. No. H92.7.168

Remington Arms Company Incorporated,
Cartridge, Centrefire; Rimless; Straight, .45 calibre
Automatic Colt Pistol,
Cat. No. H92.7.169

Dominion Cartridge Company, Cartridge,
Centrefire; Rimmed; Straight, .45 calibre Colt Revolver,
Cat. No. H92.7.170

Winchester Repeating Arms, Cartridge,
Centrefire; Rimmed; Straight, .45 calibre
Smith and Wesson Revolver,
Cat. No. H92.7.171

Winchester Repeating Arms, Case, Cartridge;
Centerfire; Straight, .455 calibre Colt Revolver,
Cat. No. H92.7.172

Royal Laboratory, Cartridge,
Centerfire; Rimmed; Straight, .455 calibre MK2 Revolver,
Cat. No. H92.7.173

Super Speed Trade Name, Winchester Western Division,
Olin Corporation, Cartridge, Centerfire; Rimmed;
Bottleneck, .218 calibre Bee Rifle,
Cat. No. H92.7.174

Dominion Ammunition Division of Canadian Industries Limited,
Cartridge, Centerfire; Rimmed; Bottleneck, .22 calibre
Hornet Rifle 5.6 X 35 R mm,
Cat. No. H92.7.175

Super Speed Trade Name,
Winchester Western Division Olin Corporation,
Cartridge, Centerfire; Rimmed; Bottleneck, .22 calibre
KHornet Rifle,
Cat. No. H92.7.176

Remington ArmsUnion Metallic Cartridge Company,
Cartridge, Centerfire; Semirimmed;
Bottleneck, .220 calibre Swift Rifle,
Cat. No. H92.7.177

Dominion Cartridge Company Division of Canadian
Industries Limited, Cartridge, Centerfire; Rimmed;
Bottleneck, .2520 calibre Winchester Centerfire Rifle,
Cat. No. H92.7.178

Dominion Cartridge Company Division Canadian
Industries Limited, Cartridge, Centerfire; Rimmed;
Bottleneck, .2535 calibre Winchester Rifle,
Cat. No. H92.7.179

Western Cartridge Company and their successors Winchester
Western Division, Olin Corporation, Cartridge, Centerfire;
Rimless; Bottleneck, .250 calibre Savage H.P. Rifle,
Cat. No. H92.7.180

Dominion Cartridge Company, Cartridge, Centerfire; Rimless;
Bottleneck, .270 calibre Winchester Rifle,
Cat. No. H92.7.181

Remington ArmsUnion Metallic Cartridge Company,
Cartridge, Centerfire; Rimmed; Bottleneck, .3030 calibre
Winchester Rifle,
Cat. No. H92.7.182

Dominion Cartridge Company, Cartridge, Centerfire; Rimless;
Bottleneck, .300 calibre Savage Rifle,
Cat. No. H92.7.183

Western Cartage Company Division, Olin Corporation,
Cartridge, Centerfire; Rimless; Bottleneck, .3006 calibre
Springfield Rifle,
Cat. No. H92.7.184

Winchester Western Division, Olin Corporation, Cartridge,
Centerfire; Rimmed; Bottleneck, .3040 calibre Krag Rifle,
Cat. No. H92.7.185

Winchester Western Division, Olin Corporation, Cartridge,
Centerfire; Belted; Bottleneck, .300 calibre
Holland & Holland Magnum Rifle,
Cat. No. H92.7.186

Norma Projektilifabrik, Cartridge,
Centerfire; Belted; Bottleneck, .300 calibre
Weatherby Magnum Rifle,
Cat. No. H92.7.187

Dominion Ammunition Company, Cartridge,
Centerfire; Rimmed; Bottleneck, .303 calibre
Savage Rifle,
Cat. No. H92.7.188

Dominion Arsenal, Cartridge,
Centerfire; Rimmed; Bottleneck; Practice, .303 calibre
Mark VII British Practice,
Cat. No. H92.7.189

Dominion Arsenal, Cartridge,
Centerfire; Rimmed; Bottleneck; Practice, .303 calibre
Mark VII British Practice,
Cat. No. H92.7.190

Winchester Repeating Arms Division, Olin Corporation,
Cartridge, Centerfire; Rimmed; Bottleneck, .303 calibre
Mark VII British,
Cat. No. H92.7.191

Dominion Ammunition Division of Canadian
Industries Limited, Cartridge, Centerfire; Rimmed;
Bottleneck, .3220 calibre Winchester Rifle,
Cat. No. H92.7.1920

Winchester Repeating Arms Division, Olin Corporation,
Cartridge, Centerfire; Rimmed; Bottleneck, .3220 calibre
Winchester Rifle,
Cat. No. H92.7.193

United States Cartridge Company,
Cartridge, Centerfire; Rimmed; Bottleneck, .32 calibre
Winchester Special Rifle,
Cat. No. H92.7.194

Dominion Cartridge Company Division, Canadian
Industries Limited, Cartridge, Centerfire; Rimmed;
Straight, .3240 calibre Ballard & Winchester Rifle,
Cat. No. H92.7.195

Dominion Ammunition Division of Canadian
Industries Limited, Cartridge, Centerfire; Rimless;
Bottleneck, 8 mm (7.92) Mauser Rifle,
Cat. No. H92.7.196

Dominion Ammunition Division of Canadian Industries Limited, Cartridge, Centerfire; Semirimmed; Straight, .351 calibre Selfloading Rifle, Cat. No. H92.7.197

Dominion Ammunition Division of Canadian Industries Limited, Cartridge, Centerfire; Rimmed; Bottleneck, .3840 calibre Winchester Rifle, Cat. No. H92.7.198

Dominion Cartridge Company Division of Canadian Industries Limited, Cartridge, Centerfire; Rimmed; Straight, .3855 calibre Winchester & Ballard Rifle, Cat. No. H92.7.199

Winchester Repeating Arms, Cartridge, Centerfire; Rimmed; Bottleneck, .4070 calibre Winchester Rifle, Cat. No. H92.7.200

Winchester Repeating Arms, Cartridge, Centerfire; Rimmed; Bottleneck, .4082 calibre Winchester Rifle, Cat. No. H92.7.201

Dominion Ammunition Division of Canadian Industries Limited, Cartridge, Centerfire; Rimmed; Straight, .4440 calibre Winchester Rifle, Cat. No. H92.7.202

Kynoch Factories, Imperial Chemical Industries, Cartridge, Centerfire; Rimmed; Straight, .4570 calibre US Government Rifle, Cat. No. H92.7.203

Dominion Cartridge Company Division of Canadian Industries Limited, Cartridge, Centrefire; Rimmed; Bottleneck, .22 calibre Savage High Power Rifle, Cat. No. H92.7.204

Winchester Repeating Arms, Cartridge, Centrefire; Rimless; Bottleneck, 6 mm Lee Navy Rifle, Cat. No. H92.7.205

Peters Cartridge Co., Cartridge, Centrefire; Rimmed; Bottleneck, .2520 calibre Single Shot Rifle, Cat. No. H92.7.206

Union Metallic Cartridge Company, Cartridge, Centrefire; Rimmed; Straight, .2525 calibre Stevens Rifle, Cat. No. H92.7.207

Western Cartage Company, Cartridge, Centrefire; Rimless; Bottleneck, .30 calibre Newton Rifle, Cat. No. H92.7.208

Winchester Repeating Arms Company, Cartridge, Centrefire; Rimmed; Straight, .32 calibre Winchester Selfloading Rifle, Cat No. H92.7.209

Winchester Repeating Arms Company, Cartridge, Centrefire; Semirimmed; Straight, .32 calibre Winchester Selfloading Rifle, Cat. No. H92.7.210

Winchester Repeating Arms Company, Cartridge, Centrefire; Semirimmed; Straight, .35 calibre Winchester Selfloading Rifle, Cat. No. H92.7.211

Winchester Repeating Arms Company, Cartridge, Centrefire; Rimmed; Bottleneck; Tapered, .4060 calibre Winchester Rifle, Cat. No. H92.7.212

Winchester Repeating Arms Company, Cartridge, Centrefire; Rimmed; Bottleneck; Tapered, .4070 calibre Winchester Rifle, Cat. No. H92.7.213

Winchester Repeating Arms Company, Cartridge, Centrefire; Rimmed; Straight, .4072 calibre Winchester Rifle, Cat. No. H92.7.214

Winchester Repeating Arms Company, Cartridge, Centrefire; Rimmed; Straight, .4560 calibre Winchester Rifle, Cat. No. H92.7.215

Dominion Cartridge Company, Cartridge, Centrefire; Rimmed; Bottleneck, .4575 calibre Winchester Rifle, Cat. No. H92.7.216

RemingtonUnion Metallic Cartridge Company, Cartridge, Centrefire; Rimmed; Straight, .5070 calibre Musket .50 Govt., Cat. No. H92.7.217

Povazske Strovarne, Cartridge, Centrefire; Rimless; Bottleneck, 7.8 X 53 Argentine Mauser Rifle, Cat. No. H92.7.218

H. Utendoerffer, Cartridge, Centrefire; Rimmed; Straight, 10.75 X 65 R mm Collath Rifle, Cat. No. H92.7.219

Povazske Strovarne, Cartridge, Centrefire; Rimmed; Straight; Tapered, 6.5 X 58 R mm Sauer Rifle, Cat. No. H92.7.220

Povazske Strovarne, Cartridge, Centrefire; Rimmed; Bottleneck, 7 X 57 R mm Mauser Rifle, Cat. No. H92.7.221

Povazske Strovarne, Cartridge, Centrefire; Rimless; Bottleneck, 7 X 64 mm Brenneke Rifle, Cat. No. H92.7.222

Povazske Strovarne, Cartridge, Centrefire; Rimmed; Bottleneck, 7 X 65 R mm Brennek Rifle, Cat. No. H92.7.223

Povazske Strovarne, Cartridge, Centrefire; Rimless; Bottleneck, 8 X 56 mm Mannlicher Schoenauer Rifle, Cat. No. H92.7.224

Povazske Strovarne, Cartridge, Centrefire; Rimmed; Bottleneck, 360 / 8 X 57 R mm Mauser, Cat. No. H92.7.225

Povazske Strovarne, Cartridge,
Centrefire; Rimmed; Straight; Tapered, 8 X 58 R mm
Sauer Rifle,
Cat. No. H92.7.226

Povazske Strovarne, Cartridge,
Centrefire; Rimless; Bottleneck, 9.3 X 62
Mauser Rifle,
Cat. No. H92.7.227

Povazske Strovarne, Cartridge,
Centrefire; Rimmed; Straight; Tapered, 9.3 X 72 R Rifle,
Cat. No. H92.7.228

Kynoch, Cartridge,
Centrefire; Semirimmed; Bottleneck, .280 calibre
Rimless Ross Rifle,
Cat. No. H92.7.229

Super Speed Trade Name, Winchester Western, Cartridge,
Centrefire; Rimless; Belted; Bottleneck, .300 calibre
H & H Magnum Rifle,
Cat. No. H92.7.230

Kynoch, Cartridge,
Centrefire; Rimmed; Straight, .375 calibre
Flanged NitroExpress, 2.25 inch Rifle,
Cat. No. H92.7.231

Kynoch, Cartridge, Centrefire;
Rimmed; Straight, .400 calibre
Nitro for Black Powder, 3 inch Rifle,
Cat. No. H92.7.232

Kynoch, Cartridge,
Centrefire; Rimless; Bottleneck, .404 calibre
Rimless NitroExpress Rifle; 10.75 X 73 mm,
Cat. No. H92.7.233

Cartridge, Centrefire;
Rimmed; Bottleneck, .470 calibre NitroExpress Rifle,
Cat. No. H92.7.234

Kynoch, Cartridge,
Centrefire; Rimmed; Bottleneck, .476 calibre NitroExpress,
Cat. No. H92.7.235

Cartridge, Centrefire;
Rimmed; Bottleneck, .57 calibre Snider Rifle,
Cat. No. H92.7.236

Remington Arms, Cartridge,
Centrefire; Rimless; Bottleneck, .50 calibre
Browning Dummy Round Machine Gun,
Cat. No. H92.7.237

Frankford Arsenal, Cartridge,
Centrefire; Rimless; Bottleneck, .50 calibre
Browning Dummy Round Machine Gun,
Cat. No. H92.7.238

Cartridge, Centrefire;
Rebated; Bottleneck, 20 mm MK2 Oerlikon,
Cat. No. H92.7.239

Dominion Cartridge Company, Cartridge,
Rimfire; Rimmed; Straight, .22 calibre
Winchester Rimfire Rifle,
Cat. No. H92.7.240

Dominion Cartridge Company, Cartridge,
Rimfire; Rimmed; Straight, .25 calibre Stevens Rifle,
Cat. No. H92.7.241

Dominion Cartridge Company, Cartridge,
Rimfire; Rimmed; Straight, .32 calibre Long Rifle,
Cat. No. H92.7.242

Union Metallic Cartridge Company, Cartridge,
Rimfire; Rimmed; Bottleneck, .41 calibre
Swiss Turn Bolt Rifle; 10.4 X 38 R
Swiss Vetterli Turn Bolt Rifle,
Cat. No. H92.7.243

Winchester Repeating Arms, Cartridge,
Rimfire; Rimmed; Straight, .44 calibre Henry Flat Rifle,
Cat. No. H92.7.244

Winchester Repeating Arms, Cartridge,
Rimfire; Rimmed; Straight, .5652 calibre
Spencer Rifle,
Cat. No. H92.7.245

Cartridge,
Pinfire; Straight, 7 mm Lefaucheux,
Cat. No. H92.7.246

Keller and Company, Cartridge,
Pinfire; Straight, 7 mm Lefaucheux,
Cat. No. H92.7.247

Metallwerk Odertal GmbH, Cartridge,
Centrefire; Rimless; Bottleneck, SZO=7.92 X 57 mm;
8 mm Mauser,
Cat. No. H92.7.248

Dominion Cartridge Company, Cartridge,
Centrefire; Rimless; Bottleneck, 6.5 mm
Mannlicher Schoenauer,
Cat. No. H92.7.249

Dominion Cartridge Company, Cartridge,
Centrefire; Rimmed; Bottleneck, 11.15 X 6 OR (.43) Mauser,
Cat. No. H92.7.250

Koenigliche Munitionfabrik Spandau, Cartridge,
Centrefire; Rimmed; Bottleneck, 11.15 X 6 OR (.43)
Mauser Rifle,
Cat. No. H92.7.251

Kynoch, Cartridge,
Centrefire; Rimmed; Straight, .577 calibre
Snider; 14.7 mm,
Cat. No. H92.7.252

Cartridge,
Centrefire; Rimmed; Bottleneck; Belted, .577450 calibre
MartiniHenry Rifle,
Cat. No. H92.7.253

Defence Industries Limited, Division of Canadian
Industries Limited, Cartridge,
Centrefire; Rimmed; Bottleneck; Wildcat, .303 calibre
British Ball MK VII2,
Cat. No.H92.7.254

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS IN THE HALMRAST COLLECTION

Flask, Powder, Cat. No. H92.7.149
O.B. North and Company, Sling, Carbine, Cat. No. H92.7.79
Holster, Cat. No. H92.7.385
Sling, Sword, Cat. No. H92.7.150
Pouch, Ammunition, Cat. No. H92.7.386
James Diron and Sons, Flask, Powder, Cat. No. H92.7.359
Pouch, Ammunition, Cat. No. H92.7.387
Flask, Powder, Cat. No. H92.7.358
Sling, Sword, Cat. No. H92.7.390
G. and J.W. Hawksley, Flask, Powder, Cat. No. H92.7.360
Flask, Powder, Cat. No. H92.7.361
Flask, Powder, Cat. No. H92.7.362
Flask, Powder, Cat. No. H92.7.363
Pouch, Cartridge, Cat. No. H92.7.377
Flask, Powder, Cat. No. H92.7.148
Pouch, Drill, Cat. No. H92.7.375
O.B. North and Company, Sling, Carbine, Cat. No. H92.7.78
Pouch, Percussion Cap, Cat. No. H92.7.367
Colt, Flask, Powder, Cat. No. H92.7.146
Flask, Powder, Cat. No. H92.7.364
Shoulder stock, Percussion pistol, Cat. No. H92.7.145
Flask, Powder, Cat. No. H92.7.365
Pouch, Percussion Cap, Cat. No. H92.7.366
Holster, Revolver, Cat. No. H92.7.368
Colt, Flask, Powder, Cat. No. H92.7.147
Pouch, Cartridge, Cat. No. H92.7.376
N.P. Ames, Sword, Cat. No. H92.7.81
Sword, Cat. No. H92.7.82
Roby C and Company, Sabre, Cat. No. H92.7.77ac
Belt, Cat. No. H92.7.72a,b
Belt, Cat. No. H92.7.389a,b
Buckle, Belt, Cat. No. H92.7.80
Belt, Cat. No. H92.7.71a,b
Belt, Cat. No. H92.7.388a,b
Hat, Keppie, Cat. No. H92.7.383
Hat, Stetson. 7 1/8, Cat. No. H92.7.74
Hat, Keppie, Cat. No. H92.7.384
Tunic, Service Dress, Cat. No. H92.7.76
Tunic, Service Dress, Cat. No. H92.7.75
Discharge and Citizenship Papers for Cyrus T. Lovett.
Sergeant, D Company, 2nd Regiment of Minnesota Vet. Inf. Volunteers. U.S. Civil War (owner of blue Union Army uniform in collection)Rattle, Cat. No. H92.40.1
Herbert Brush Manufacturing Company, Brush, Animal; Horse, Cat. No. H92.7.70
Bugle, Cat. No. H92.7.73
Saddle, McClellan, Cat. No. H92.7.152
Headboard, Cat. No. H92.7.153
Annin and Company, Ring, Ferrule, Cat. No. H92.7.369
Annin and Company. Ring, Ferrule, Cat. No. H92.7.370
Annin and Company, Ring, Ferrule, Cat. No. H92.7.371
Annin and Company, Ring, Ferrule, Cat. No. H92.7.372
Headboard, Cat. No. H92.7.391

Part 4

REFERENCES

A: UNPUBLISHED SOURCES

Many people assisted me with my research on Lawrence's life and accomplishments. Prior to his passing, Marjorie Halmrast and Mary Bechenko spent many hours with a tape recorder talking with Lawrence and his long-time friend, Alva Bair, asking them questions from a long list I had prepared and listening to their tales of adventures. I spent further time taping interviews with Lawrence's children, his wife Marjorie, Alva Bair and others to preserve, in their words, the events and accomplishments they felt important to Lawrence's life. The tape recordings affectionately referred to as "The Halmrast Tapes" have been deposited with the Provincial Museum of Alberta. I conducted numerous interviews with Lawrence's sister, Trelma McNeely, his friends, neighbours and professional acquaintances. Many of these people kindly corresponded with me as I sought out additional points or clarified others.

Lawrence kept numerous scrapbooks and files of things that interested him, many of which contained old correspondence with friends, as well as newspaper clippings about projects or events he participated in. My thanks to his children for lending me these valuable sources. There was a considerable body of published literature available that contained information about Lawrence. He authored some of the articles.

Following is a list of the people I am indebted to for their assistance, a list of the newspaper articles pertaining to Lawrence's accomplishments, a formal listing of articles and publications pertaining to Lawrence and the Halmrast tape recordings.

PEOPLE INTERVIEWED

Alva Bair (long time friend)
Jim and June Carpenter
(Archaeological Society of Alberta, Lethbridge Centre)
Dr. Philip Currie
(Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology)
Hugh Dempsey (formerly of the Glenbow Museum)
Dale Halmrast (son)
Marjorie Halmrast (wife)
Walt Healy (Ace Hy Motorcycle Club)
Hope Johnson (Medicine Hat and District Museum)
Alex Johnston (Lethbridge Historical Society)
Rex Johnston (Gun collector)
Alan Kerr (Gun collector)
Ken Krauss (GunRunner Newspaper)
Gail Krysak (daughter)
Bill Krysak (son-in-law)
Dr. Timothy Losey (Archaeological Consultant)
Lowell McNeely (brother-in-law)
Trelma McNeely (sister)
June McRae (daughter)

Dr. Bruce Naylor
(Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology)
Andy Neuman (Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology)
Carol Sawatzky (daughter)
Jim Sawatzky (son-in-law)
Ron Serbin (Gun collector)
Dr. Phil Stepney (Provincial Museum of Alberta)
Darren Tanke (Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology)
Al Thompson (Gun collector)
Bob Ward (Head Ranger, Writing-on-Stone Provincial Park)

TAPED INTERVIEWS: THE HALMRAST TAPES

Tape 1 January 20 & 22, 1992
Interview with Lawrence Halmrast and Alva Bair
(Interviewer: Marjorie Halmrast and
Mary Bochenko)

Tape 2 January 22 & February 1, 1992
Interview with Lawrence Halmrast, Alva Bair and
Marjorie Halmrast
(Interviewer: Mary Bochenko)

Tape 3 January 21 and February 4, 1992
Interview with Lawrence Halmrast, Bob Ward and
Marjorie Halmrast
(Interviewer: Mary Bochenko)

Tape 4 February 4, 1992
Interview with Lawrence Halmrast and
Marjorie Halmrast
(Interviewer:Bob Ward)

Tape 5 Interview with Alva Bair,
Lawrence Halmrast and Bill
Secertan (Rock Club)
(Interviewer: Mary Bochenko)

Tape 6 February 13, 1992
Interview with Lawrence Halmrast's children,
Gail and Bill Krysak, Dale Halmrast, Carol and Jim
Sawatzky and wife, Marjorie Halmrast
(Interviewer: Ellen Gasser)

Tape 7 February 18, 1992
Interview with Ron Serbin, Dale Halmrast and
Marjorie Halmrast
(Interviewer: Ellen Gasser)

Tape 8 February 18 & 19, 1992
Interview with Ron Serbin, Dale Halmrast,
Alva Bair,
Marjorie Halmrast and Bob Ward
(Interviewer: Ellen Gasser)

Tape 9 February 19, 1992
Interview with Alva Bair
(Interviewer: Ellen Gasser)

Tape 10 August 12, 1992
Interview with Walt Healy (Ace Hy Motorcycle Club)
(Interviewer: Ellen Gasser)

LETTERS

Anonymous, 1992, Tribute from the Warner and District Historical Society to Lawrence Halmrast

Carpenter, Jim and June. Spring 1992, Notes regarding the Lethbridge Centre of the Archaeological Society and Lawrence's contributions to same.

Dempsey, Hugh, Glenbow Museum, to Lawrence Halmrast. January 27, 1983, regarding syllabics.

Dexter, Ward to Dr. Barry Fell. March 10, 1984, regarding Ogam along Milk River.

Emmerson, Josee, Interpreter, National Museums of Canada to Lawrence Halmrast. August 4, 1987, regarding syllabics.

Halmrast, Dale to Ellen Gasser, February 1992, regarding Dale's father, Lawrence Halmrast.

Halmrast, L.D. files. Letter regarding syllabics from the University of Winnipeg; The Institute of American History and Art in Tulsa, Oklahoma; Rundle House, Alberta; The University of Calgary; The Provincial Archives of Alberta; the Native Heritage and Cultural Centre in Edmonton; The Glenbow Museum in Calgary

Halmrast, L.D. n.d. Notes to accompany a slide show on syllabics.

Hutchinson, Gerald M., Rundle's Mission Inc., Pigeon Lake, Alberta to Lawrence Halmrast. February 14, 1982, regarding syllabics.

Hutchinson, Gerald M., Rundle's Mission Inc., Pigeon Lake, Alberta to Mr. Greg Ellis, City Archivist, Sir Alexander Galt Museum, Lethbridge. Oct. 31, 1982, regarding syllabics.

Johnston, Alex. Galt Museum, Lethbridge, to Lawrence Halmrast. July 24, 1982, regarding syllabics.

Krysak, Gail to Ellen Gasser, February 1992, regarding Gail's father, Lawrence Halmrast.

McNeely, Trelma to Ellen Gasser, February 1992, regarding Lawrence's childhood.

McRae, June to Ellen Gasser, February 1992, regarding June's father, Lawrence Halmrast.

Mannis, David M., Audio-Visual Coordinator, Visitor Services Branch, Alberta Recreation and Parks to Lawrence Halmrast. June 13, 1988.

Parry, Louis Buff, Director, The Mispa Society to the Mispa Society Board of Directors March 14, 1988, outlining the study proposal regarding syllabics on the Milk River.

Rolfe, Gordon, Secretary Treasurer, Milk River and District Chamber of Commerce, to Honourable Norman Weiss, Minister of Recreation and Parks, May 11, 1987.

Sawatzky, Carol to Ellen Gasser, February 1992, regarding Carol's father, Lawrence Halmrast.

B: PUBLISHED SOURCES

Newspaper and Magazine Articles and Publications

Anon. "Unveiling Postponed". The Lethbridge Herald. 1960

Osborne, Jim. "Gold Springs Park Popular. International Field Day Draws Over 1200 People". The Lethbridge Herald. 1960

Anon. "Sportsmen Attend Judging: Willow Valley Trophy Club Affair Big Success". The Lethbridge Herald. Thursday, January 12, 1961

Bair, Alva and Lawrence Halmrast. "Alberta Snow Hunt". Field and Stream. Vol. LXVI, No. 1. 1961, pp. 72-73

Anon. "Unveil Monument Whoop Up Trail". The Lethbridge Herald. 1964

Anon. "Receives Certificate". The Lethbridge Herald.

Anon. "First Annual Lethbridge Gun Show". The Lethbridge Herald, Monday, March 22, 1965

Anon. "5000 See Exhibits. First Gun Show Termed Success". The Lethbridge Herald. Monday, March 22, 1965. pp. 10

Anon. "Andy Russell, left, presents Sportsman-of-the Year Award to Lawrence Halmrast". The Lethbridge Herald. Monday, April 26, 1965

Anon. 'Halmrast is Winner. Local Gun Show Draws Big Crowds'. The Lethbridge Herald, 1966

Anon. "Edmonton Collector Tops Gun Show". The Lethbridge Herald. Monday, April 10, 1967

Anon. "Wolf Represents Shelby at Milk River Ceremony". Shelby - The Gateway to Alaska. Wednesday, May 17, 1967. Vol. 16. No. 41.

Anon. "Milk River Dedicates Cairn at Special May 1 Ceremony'. The Lethbridge Herald, 1967

Campbell, A. A. "Eight Flags in Milk River's History. Bronze Plaque in Place as Monument Shapes Up". The Lethbridge Herald. 1967

Campbell, Alice A. "Under Eight Flags. Milk River's Centennial Project". The Western Producer. Thursday, July 13, 1967. pp. 35

Olson, Rolf. "Plummer Returns". The Bozeman Daily Chronicle. Montana Outdoors Column. Sunday, July 30, 1967

Anon. "Wright Wins Public Choice for Second Year at Show". The Lethbridge Herald. 1968

Archaeological Society of Alberta, Lethbridge Chapter. 1970

Tagg, Geoff. "Tom Bateman Has Rocks From India, Australia". The Lethbridge Herald. Tuesday, April 14, 1970. pp. 72-73

Zern, Ed. "How to Shoot Geese!" Exit Laughing Column. Field and Stream. November 1970

Archaeological Society of Alberta, Lethbridge Chapter. 1972

Archaeological Society of Alberta, Lethbridge Chapter. 1973

O'Connor, Jack. "Triple-Play Hunt". Outdoor Life. October, 1973. pp. 84, 128-132

Anon. Monument To Be Unveiled. September 1974

Anon. "Antique Iron". The Lethbridge Herald. 1975

Archaeological Society of Alberta, Lethbridge Centre. "The Last Indian Battle. Locating and recording artifacts from the last inter-tribal battle (Cree and Blackfoot)" 1975

Carpenter, Jim. (Ed.) "A Record of Artifacts from the Last Inter-Tribal Indian Battle". Archaeological Society of Alberta, Lethbridge Chapter. Project #15. 1975

Archaeological Society of Alberta, Lethbridge Centre. "Grassy Lake Site, a survey and mapping of a stone cairn (D10v-1) and a boulder outline adjacent thereto (possible turtle) and a large circle of stones with radiating lines (D10v-2)". 1976

Cooper, John. "Rex Turple: Still Racing After all These Years". Cycle Canada. April, 1977

Henkes, Rollie. "The Leisure Side of Farming". The Furrow. November/December, 1977. pp. 2-5

Swihart, Ric. "Winter Hobby". The Lethbridge Herald. Saturday, April 23, 1977

Anderson, Henry R. "Inventory of Artifacts from the Last Indian Battle of 1870 (mid-October) at Belly River. DkPf-5". Archaeological Society of Alberta, Lethbridge Chapter. 1978

Janke, Dwayne. "Farmer's Field Trip Yields Harvest From Another Era". The Lethbridge Herald, Lifestyle Section. Tuesday, June 24, 1980. pp. B4.

Allison, Gary. "No Shooting". The Lethbridge Herald, Saturday, October 10, 1981. pp. C5.

Allison, Gary. 'Collectors' Weapons Bring History to Life'. Western People: A supplement to The Western Producer. July 29, 1982. pp.6 and 7.

Masinasin Historical Society. "Under Eight Flags". From Sandstone to Settlers, Writing-on-Stone History 1900-1983. 1983. pp. 33

Anon. Chatter. (Newsletter of the Montana Arms Collectors Association). Second Quarter Edition. (Photographs of Lawrence's gun collection). 1984. pp. 4-5

Coombes, Janine. "Home Has an Aura of Civil War History". The Milk River Monitor. Vol. 1, No. 9. Tuesday, July 30, 1985. pp. A1 and A15.

Warner and District Historical Society. Wagons to Wings: Warner, Alberta. Ronalds Printing, Lethbridge, Alberta. 1985. Lawrence Halmrast family history p. 484-487, 561, 639-640, 642, 784-785

Anon. "Area Hunters Receive Award Honoured For Conservation". Forty Mile Commentator. 1986

Anon. "Warner Area Men Receive Award". The Lethbridge Herald. Saturday, November 22, 1986. pp. B2

Anon. "Two County Bighorn Winners". The Review, Raymond, Alberta. Tuesday, December 30, 1986. pp. B2

Bly, Kathy. "Warner Farmer Preserves Indian Heritage". The Review, Raymond, Alberta. Tuesday, August 26, 1986. pp. 11

Anon. "Order of the Bighorn award recipients announced". Newspaper article. No source. 1986

Keller, Wes. "2 of 4 Bighorn Winners from Warner County". The Review. Raymond, Alberta. Vol. 22, No. 22. Tuesday, November 25, 1986. pp. 1-2

Worley, Jennifer. "Unpopular Once, Colt Rifle Now Valued Collectors Item". The Lethbridge Herald. Monday, March 2, 1987. p. A5.

Allison, Gary. "Gun Show Successful". The Lethbridge Herald. Monday, February 29, 1988. pp. A3Cumings, Debra. "Rock of Ages". The Calgary Sunday Sun, Travel Section. June 26, 1988. pp. 1-3

Anon. "Interpretive Centre Gears Up For Busy Season". Southwest Alberta Calendar of Events, supplement to The Lethbridge Herald. Friday, May 11, 1990. pp. 4

Swihart, Ric. "Passion for History". Town & Country, East Zone. People and Places Section. Wednesday, January 31, 1990. pp. 25.

Anon. "Hobby Blossoms Into Achievements". Aperature, University of Lethbridge. Vol. 3, No. 28. October 15, 1991. pp. 1 and 3.

Brown, Wendy. "County Man Receives Honourary Doctorate". The County Review, Life and Leisure Section, Raymond, Alberta. Tuesday, December 3, 1991. pp. 20.

Tagg, Dr. James. Speech Given to Introduce Lawrence Devern Halmrast as Recipient of Honourary Doctorate of Laws. The University of Lethbridge Fall Convocation Program. 1991

Macafee, Michelle. "Collector's Civil War Guns Donated to Museum". Edmonton Journal. March 4, 1992

Gasser, Ellen. Historical Sites Along the Milk River - Discoveries of Alva Bair and Lawrence Halmrast. Manuscript prepared for the Provincial Museum of Alberta. 1994

Anon. n.d. "We asked...what is the most interesting part of gun collecting". The Lethbridge Herald.

Anon. n.d. "Kronkite Trophy is Shared". The Lethbridge Herald.

Anon. n.d. "Willow Valley Trophy Club Award Winners Are Named". The Lethbridge Herald.

Anon. n.d. "Guns Galore". The Leader-Post. Regina, Saskatchewan.

Anon. n.d. "Gun Collectors Awards".

Anon. n.d. "Warner Man Wins Prize". The Lethbridge Herald.

Anon. n.d. "Bozeman Trail Gunshow Prize Winners Are Announced; Mining City Exhibit Continues".

Anon. n.d. "Battle Artifacts at the Library". The Lethbridge Herald.

Anon. n.d. "Whoop Up Country Centennial Barbecue and Family Day, Sunday July 13, Indian Battle Park". The Lethbridge Herald

Anon. n.d. "History Book in Preparation".

Anon. n.d. "Fossil Finds". The Lethbridge Herald.

Anon. n.d "Fort Whoop Up Barbecue, Family Day Sunday". The Lethbridge Herald.

Anon. n.d. "Field Day at Warner". The Lethbridge Herald.

Anon. n.d. "Dinosaur site discovered". The Lethbridge Herald.

Anon. n.d. "Centennial Bell Cairn Dedicated". The Lethbridge Herald.

Anon. n.d. "Dinosaur site discovered, Warner". The Lethbridge Herald.

Anon. n.d. "130 Scouts Hold Annual Camporee". The Lethbridge Herald.

Anon. n.d. "Cub Camp Rained Out". The Lethbridge Herald.

Anon. n.d. "Two Warner Boys Now Queen's Scouts". The Lethbridge Herald.

Anon. n.d. "Small Bore". The Lethbridge Herald.

Johnston, Alex. "The Battle at Belly River". Lethbridge Historical Society. n.d.

Masson, Tami. "Can you Feel It In Your Bones?" The Lethbridge Herald.

Anon. Wrentham Local History book

The following newspaper articles are identified only by title of the story. Presumably most of them were published in The Lethbridge Herald, or the Warner and Milk River newspapers, but the source and dates were not identified.

Anon. "Spotlighting Pte. Jessie McCulloch." Newspaper article

Anon. "Lawrence Halmrast in Charge of Small Bore Competition at Cooper's Drop, 3 Miles From Raymond - Alberta Summer Games."

Anon. "Lawrence Halmrast and party left for the Kananaskis to do some hunting." Newspaper article

Anon. "Lawrence Halmrast, Alva Bair and Harvey Leslie returned home from a hunting trip in the Grande Prairie District. They bagged two bear and one caribou." Newspaper article.

Anon. "Warner News. Lawrence Halmrast in company with Harvey Leslie and Alva Bair of Milk River, were up at Kananaskis hunting recently. Lawrence was fortunate to shoot a big black bear, one of the largest that has been shot in that area." Newspaper article.

Anon. "Lawrence Halmrast and Alva Bair of Milk River flew to Ontario recently to bring back a new car for Mr. Bair. They also intend to drive through Arizona and do some hunting." Newspaper article

Anon. "Mr. Lawrence Halmrast and hunting party returned from the north recently. Lawrence brought home a caribou." Newspaper article.

Anon. "The day's events were: Lawrence Halmrast of Warner for Ace Hy Motorcycle Trophy" Newspaper article.

Books and Periodicals

Angle, Paul M. A Pictorial History of the Civil War Years. Doubleday. 1980

Archaeological Society of Alberta, Story-on-Stone. A photographic record of rock art in the Southern Alberta area surrounding the City of Lethbridge. Lethbridge Centre. Project No. 20, 1980

Dexter, Warren W., Personal report of "Go West Research Trip of 1983" sent to Lawrence Halmrast. Aug. p. 6 (regarding Ogam). 1983

Dexter, Warren, Ogam Consaine and Tifinag Alphabets, Ancient Uses. Academy Books, Rutland, Vermont. 1984

Fell, Barry, America BC. Plain, New York Times Book Co., New York.1976

Fell, Barry, Saga America. Times Books. New York. 1980

Fell, Barry, Bronze Age America. Little, Brown and Company. 1982

Fell, Barry, "Celtic Augurs and Canada Geese." Occasional Publications of the Epigraphic Society. Volume 12, No. 296. June 1984. pp. 102

Forbis, R. and D.Wormington, An Introduction to Archaeology in Canada. Denver Museum of Natural History. Proceedings No. 11. Denver, Colorado. 1965

Gasser, Ellen, A Guide to the Information Presented on the Writing-on-Stone Walk concerning Native Writings and Plains Indian Cultures. Manuscript prepared for Alberta Recreation and Parks, Parks Division, Writing-on-Stone Provincial Park. Note #37 on Ogam. 1985

Higginbotham, J.D, When the West Was Young. Ryerson Press, Chapter 10 (Reprint of the Archaeological Society of Alberta). 1933

Johnston, Alex, "The Battle at Belly River." Lethbridge Historical Society Publication. n.d.

Johnson, Hope and John E. Storer, A Guide to Alberta Vertebrate Fossils from the Age of Dinosaurs. Provincial Museum of Alberta, Publication No. 4. 1974

Keyser, James D. The Rock Art of Writing-on-Stone. Report for Alberta Provincial Parks. 1976

King, Don, Alberta Archaeology: A Handbook for Amateurs. The High River Times, High River, Alberta. 1968

Milk River Historical Society, Under Eight Flags. Local History of Milk River and District. 1989 (Alva Bair history, pp. 552-563)

McGlone, W. R. and P. M. Leonard, Ancient Celtic America. Panorama West Books. 1986. pp. 113

Middleton, Archdeacon S.H, Kanai Chieftainship. History, Evolution and Culture of the Blood Indians and Origin of the Sun Dance. Chapter 9, The Blackfoot Language. 1951

Norman, Dr. David, The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Dinosaurs. Crescent Books, New York 1985

Orchard, W. J. The Stone Age on the Prairies. The Saskatchewan Archaeological Society. School Aids and Textbook Publishing Co. Ltd., Regina. 1942

Orchard, W. J. Kitchen Middens (Prehistoric Campsites). The Saskatchewan Archaeological Society. School Aids and Textbook Publishing Co. Ltd., Regina, Saskatchewan. 1946

Sharp, Paul F., Whoop-Up Country. The University of Oklahoma Press. 1978

Steege, L. C. and W. W. Welch, Stone Artifacts of the Northwestern Plains. Northwestern Plains Publishing Co. Department of Archaeology, Colorado Springs, Colorado. 1961

Sutherland, R. L. and R. L. Wilson, Hartfort Cylinder Guns. The Book of Colt Firearms. Chapter XXVII.1970

Ward, Geoffrey C. (With Ric Burns and Ken Burns), The Civil War: An Illustrated History. Alfred A. Knopf, New York. 1990

Warner and District Historical Society, Wagons to Wings: Warner, Alberta. Local History Book. Ronalds Printing. Lethbridge, Alberta. 1985